浮世艶草子 2

～うきよつやぞうし～

UKIYO-TSUYA ZOUSHI

PRESENTED BY

八月薫 原作 篁千夏

KAORU HAZUKI &

CHINATSU TAKAMURA

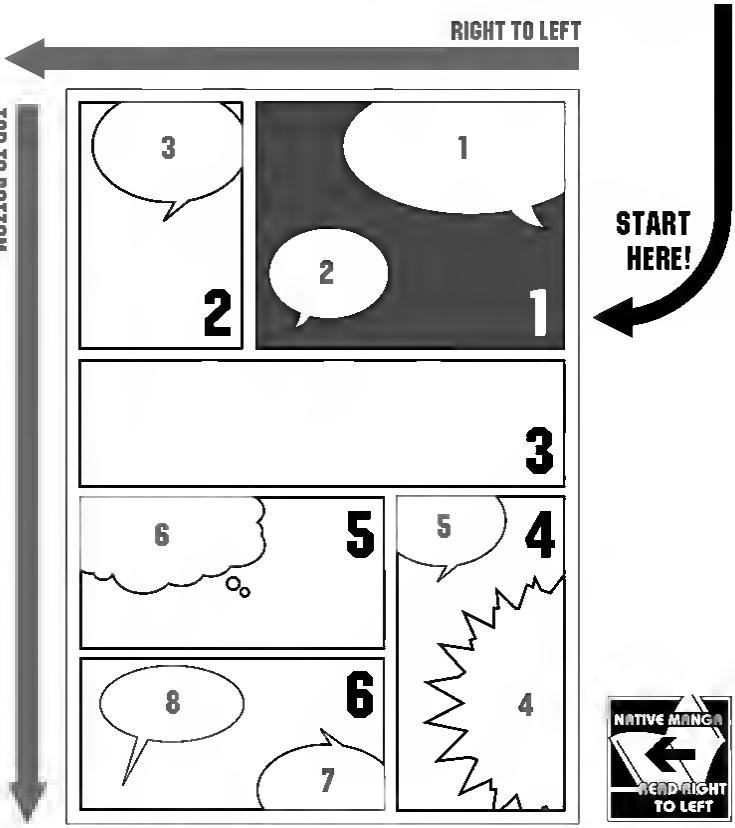
AMOROUS WOMEN OF THE FLOATING WORLD: SEX IN OLD TOKYO VOL. 2

PARENTAL ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPコミックス

THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL IS READ IN ITS NATIVE FORMAT

READ EACH PANEL FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM SEE HOW IT'S DONE BELOW!



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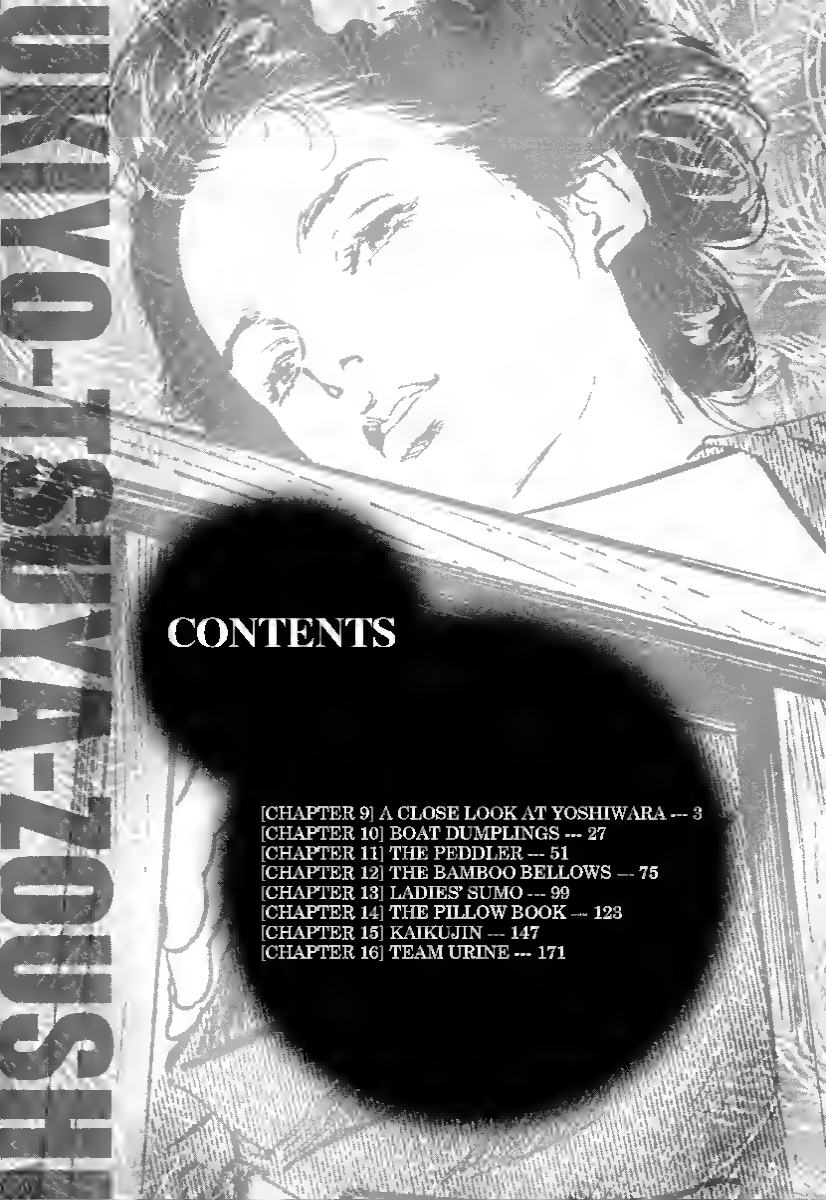

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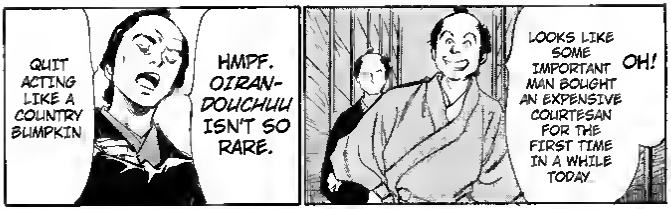
CHAPTER 9 第九話 吉原細見

A CLOSE LOOK AT YOSHIWARA

NEW YOSHI-WARA
HEY, DID YOU GET IT?
HEE HEE HEE
ANYWAY, THAT'S FIVE PEOPLE IN THREE DAYS. YOU GAVE IT A RATHER GOOD TRY.
YES, BIG BROTHER YAJIROU.
RIGHT HERE
I'M SHOOT-ING PLANKS NOW
THANKS FOR THE TREAT.
GO EAT SOME EEL OR SOMETHING TODAY YOU NEED TO BUILD UP YOUR STAMINA
OH, COME ON, WHAT MESSY WRITING...
CLANG... CLANG...
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE


QUIT ACTING LIKE A COUNTRY BUMPKIN
HMPF. OIRAN-DOUCHUU ISN'T SO RARE.
OH! LOOKS LIKE SOME IMPORTANT MAN BOUGHT AN EXPENSIVE COURTESAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE TODAY

...IT LOOKS LIKE THE FINAL OIRAN-DOUCHUU OF THE COURTESAN YUUGIRI.
THAT IS TO SAY, BIG BROTHER

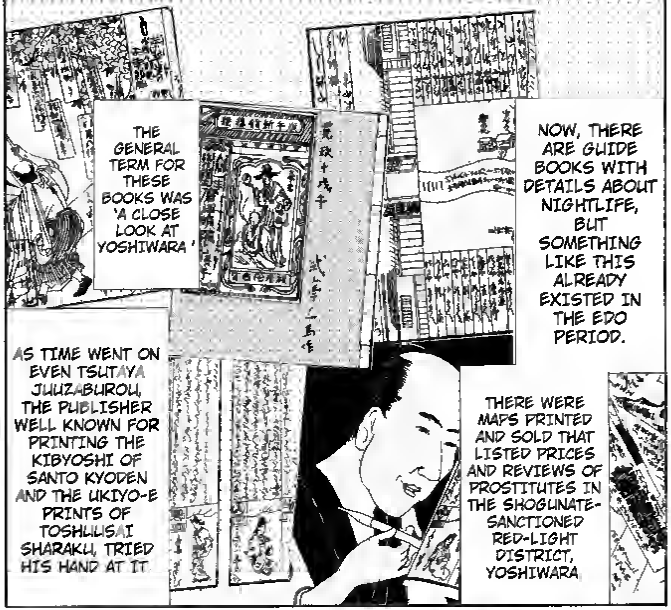
COURTESAN YUUGIRI?

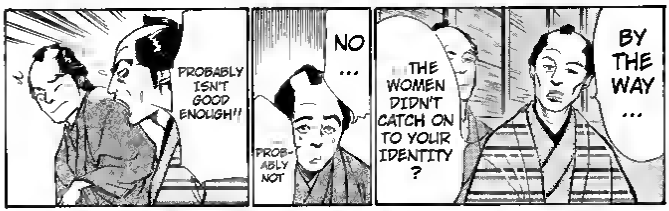
CLANG

CRUNCH
CRUNCH
OIRAN-DOUCHUU WAS WHAT IT WAS CALLED WHEN THE COURTESAN WALKED FROM THE BROTHEL TO THE AGEYA AND TEAHOUSES ACCOMPANIED BY HER ENTOURAGE.
THE AGEYA WERE PLACES FOR REVELRY THAT DID NOT HAVE THEIR OWN GEISHA, AND THEY WOULD SEND INVITATIONS CALLED SASHIGAMI TO THE BROTHELS WHICH EMPLOYED PROSTITUTES, IN ORDER TO CALL THE COURTESANS THERE.
THE PATH FROM YOSHIWARA'S EDOMACHI, WHERE THE BROTHELS WITH PROSTITUTES WERE, TO KYOMACHI, WHERE THE AGEYA WERE, WAS OFTEN LIKENED TO A JOURNEY ALONG THE TOKAIDO HIGHWAY, AND WAS CALLED OIRAN-DOUCHUU, THE PASSING OF THE COURTESAN.
COURTESAN YUUGIRI
夕霧傾城太夫

SHE REALLY IS DAIMYO-CLASS, AFTER ALL.
WHEN COURTESAN YUUGIRI, WHO HAS BEEN LIKENED TO THE SECOND COMING OF MYOUSHIN TAKAO, FINISHES HER APPRENTICESHIP IN THE THIRD MONTH OF NEXT YEAR, SHE'LL BELONG TO A DAIMYO IN THE WEST
GET A LAST LOOK AT HER OIRAN-DOUCHUU HERE.
JUST SAY FARE-WELL
THE PRICE WAS ACTUALLY AN UNBELIEV-ABLE THOUSAND RYO
I'D LIKE TO SHARE A PILLOW WITH HER, JUST ONCE.
COURTESAN.
YOU'VE BECOME BEAUTIFUL.
TEN YEARS BEFORE
Roll-on

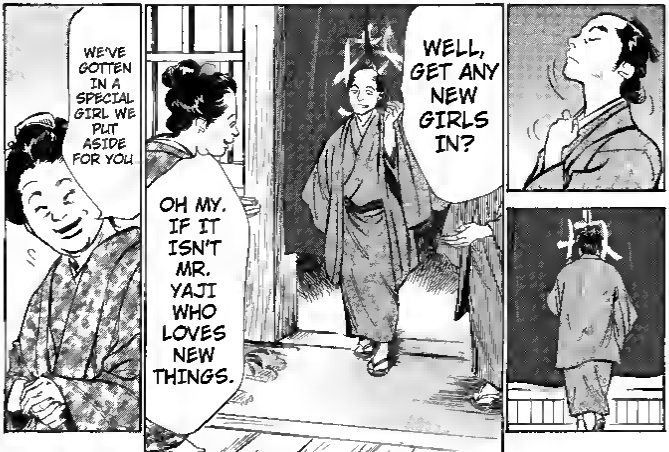
WHAT ARE YOU DAYDREAMING FOR, YAJIROU!
I— I'M SORRY, BIG BROTHER
IT WAS JUST SUCH A BEAUTIFUL OIRAN -DOUCHUU
YOU IDIOT NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LOOK, THE COURTESANS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH US.
MORE IMPORTANTLY HOW DID IT GO?
GOOD PREPARATION ALL IN ALL
SHE WAS A BIT EXPENSIVE, HAD A LOT OF BODY HAIR
SHE WAS ON THE WETTER SIDE, WITH A HIGH VOICE ?
OH, IT WAS JUST AWFUL.
HER VOICE, WHICH SEEMED INTENTIONALLY SHRILL, JUST ECHOED IN MY HEAD
... SO, HOW WAS HER "ECAF?"
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY ECAF ...?
YOU IDIOT IF YOU TURN THE WORD FACE BACKWARDS, IT BECOMES ECAF, RIGHT?
AT LEAST REMEMBER THE CODE!
NOWADAYS IN JAPAN, GOURMET GUIDES ALL SEEM TO CREATE A CLAMOR ABOUT HOW MANY STARS RESTAURANTS HAVE
.. BUT OLD EDOITES ALSO SOMEHOW SEEMED TO LOVE RANKING THINGS ..
FOOD LOVERS TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO RANK FOOD AND DRINK, AND THIS BECAME A SORT OF A GUIDEBOOK.


THE GENERAL TERM FOR THESE BOOKS WAS 'A CLOSE LOOK AT YOSHIWARA'
NOW, THERE ARE GUIDE BOOKS WITH DETAILS ABOUT NIGHTLIFE, BUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS ALREADY EXISTED IN THE EDO PERIOD.
AS TIME WENT ON EVEN TSUTAYA JUUZABUROU, THE PUBLISHER WELL KNOWN FOR PRINTING THE KIBYOSHI OF SANTO KYODEN AND THE UKIYO-E PRINTS OF TOSHUSAI SHARAKU, TRIED HIS HAND AT IT.
THERE WERE MAPS PRINTED AND SOLD THAT LISTED PRICES AND REVIEWS OF PROSTITUTES IN THE SHOGUNATE-SANCTIONED RED-LIGHT DISTRICT, YOSHIWARA.

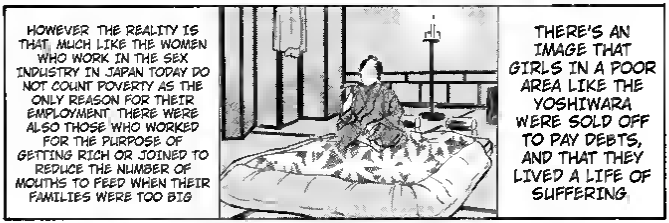

PROBABLY ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH!!
NO...
PROBABLY NOT
THE WOMEN DIDN'T CATCH ON TO YOUR IDENTITY?
BY THE WAY...

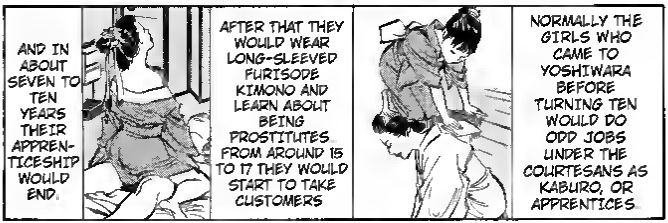
D— DON'T SAY THAT... I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN.
IF YOU GET CAUGHT, I'LL HAVE YOU RESIGN FROM THIS JOB.
AND IF WE TAKE THAT ACT AT FACE VALUE AND PRAISE THEM FOR IT, IT WILL COST US OUR BOOK'S CREDIBILITY.
IF THEY FIND OUT YOU'RE ONE OF OUR STAFF, IT'S OVER
INATTENTIVE WOMEN WILL BECOME PROPER AND HARDWORKING IN MERE SECONDS.

WELL THEN, GO CHECK OUT ONE MORE AVERAGE BROTHEL!
COME ON, BIG BROTHER!
I'VE ALREADY BEEN TO TWO PLACES TODAY.
GOOD YOUNG MEN DON'T WHINE.
GO OUT AND GET A HANDLE ON SHOOTING BLANKS BEFORE COMING BACK!
Y... YES!


WELL, GET ANY NEW GIRLS IN?
OH MY. IF IT ISN'T MR. YAJI WHO LOVES NEW THINGS.
WE'VE GOTTEN IN A SPECIAL GIRL WE PUT ASIDE FOR YOU

SHE'S A TSUKI-DASHI, THOUGH
TODAY'S GIRL REALLY IS PUT ASIDE FOR YOU.
YOU DON'T CALL THINGS YOU CAN'T SELL 'PUT ASIDE,' YOU KNOW.
"PUT ASIDE" FOR YOU IS LIKE AN OLD PICKLE FORGOTTEN IN THE PICKLING BRAN.


HOWEVER THE REALITY IS THAT, MUCH LIKE THE WOMEN WHO WORK IN THE SEX INDUSTRY IN JAPAN TODAY DO NOT COUNT POVERTY AS THE ONLY REASON FOR THEIR EMPLOYMENT. THERE WERE ALSO THOSE WHO WORKED FOR THE PURPOSE OF GETTING RICH OR JOINED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MOUTHS TO FEED WHEN THEIR FAMILIES WERE TOO BIG.
THERE'S AN IMAGE THAT GIRLS IN A POOR AREA LIKE THE YOSHIWARA WERE SOLD OFF TO PAY DEBTS, AND THAT THEY LIVED A LIFE OF SUFFERING.


AND IN ABOUT SEVEN TO TEN YEARS THEIR APPRENTICESHIP WOULD END.
AFTER THAT THEY WOULD WEAR LONG-SLEEVED FURISODE KIMONO AND LEARN ABOUT BEING PROSTITUTES. FROM AROUND 15 TO 17 THEY WOULD START TO TAKE CUSTOMERS.
NORMALLY THE GIRLS WHO CAME TO YOSHIWARA BEFORE TURNING TEN WOULD DO ODD JOBS UNDER THE COURTESANS AS KABURO, OR APPRENTICES.

I AM CALLED OKOTO.
I HUMBLY ... ASK... FOR YOUR FAVOR...
SLIDE
GIRLS WHO SUDDENLY WENT TO BEING PROSTITUTES FROM BEING AMATEURS BECAUSE OF THEIR PARENTS' DEBTS WERE CALLED TSUKIDASHI, AND BEING BOUND BY THESE DEBTS, THEY WERE FORCED INTO PAINFUL LIVES.
U, UM...

HMPH. CLUMSILY USING THE LANGUAGE OF THE DISTRICT SHE'S STILL UNUSED TO...
SHE HASN'T BEEN HERE LONG, HAS SHE?
CAN'T EXPECT HER TO BE WELL-TRAINED CAN I...?
DON'T BE SO FORMAL.
SHOW ME YOUR FACE.
U, UMM...
IS THERE SOME-THING...?
NO, NOTHING AT ALL.
YOU JUST LOOK LIKE SOME-ONE I KNOW.

THIS IS...
GLIDE...
WHAT FINELY TEXTURED SKIN SHE HAS!
IT'S AS THOUGH ITS MOISTURE STICKS TO YOUR HAND
GLLIDE...
SHE HAS LITTLE BODY HAIR, AND IS SOFT AND FIRM!..
AH ...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT SOMETHING LIKE THIS
AH. .

UNH ...
SHE'S STILL NAIVE.
--- BUT SHE RATHER KNOWS HOW.
.. TO REACT IN A WAY PLEASING TO A MAN.
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL IS HOW SHE IS DOWN THERE...
PUSH

W... WHAT IS THIS?!
HER FLESH IS TWINING AROUND ME INSIDE...
SLLLIDE
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?
N, NOTHING AT ALL
MY HIPS ARE JUST IN BAD SHAPE FROM FOOLING AROUND TOO MUCH
HEHE HE...
DOES THAT FEEL A LITTLE BETTER?
YOU ...
... ARE A GOOD GIRL, AREN'T YOU?
SLIDE

FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME TO HAVE COME IN JUST THREE AND A HALF STROKES

KISS
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
IT'S JUST BECAUSE I DRANK SOME ALCOHOL
AS PROOF ... LOOK.
OH, IT'S STILL SO SWOLLEN INSIDE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
THIS TIME I'M FINE
I GOT EXCITED AGAIN RIGHT AWAY WITHOUT EVEN PULLING OUT.
JUST STOP MOVING FOR A LITTLE BIT.
THIS IS...
HUFF ...
...I, I'M COMING AGAIN...
UNH
SPURT

I CAN'T BELIEVE I COULD DO IT SIX TIMES WITHOUT PULLING OUT ONCE...
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT...
A RARE BEAUTY, ALONG WITH THAT UNRIVALED PUSSY...
PAUSE
CLOSE YOUR MIDDLE FINGER GENTLY.
TRY STROKING IT FROM THE BOTTOM UP.
RIP!

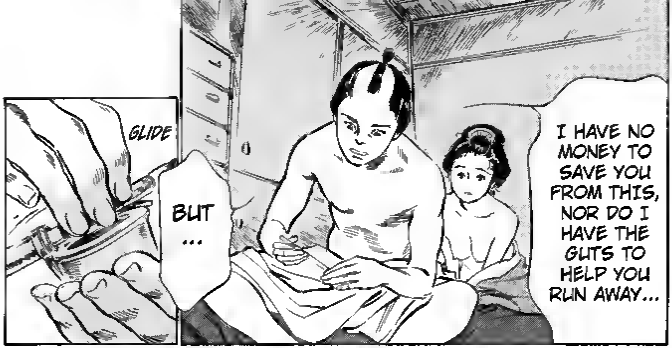
RIGHT ...
ADD SOME STRENGTH TO IT.
H, HEY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ...
NIBBLE
かぷ。
GULP
HAAHHN ...
UNH !
じゅるる
SHLP
SHLP
DID THAT FEEL GOOD ?
YEAH ...
BUT WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT ...

YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CONSISTENTLY COMES TO ME, MR. YAJI.
BUT THAT'S JUST UNTIL THIS MONTH.
UNTIL THIS MONTH?
BECAUSE I HAVEN'T GOT ANY CUSTOMERS OTHER THAN YOU, MR YAJI...
...I'VE BEEN TOLD TO MOVE TO A KIRI-MISE.
THE KIRI-MISE WERE THE LOWEST QUALITY SHOPS IN YOSHIWARA.
THE PROSTITUTES THERE WERE CALLED HYAKUZOU OR ONI.
THEY WERE CALLED HYAKUZOU BECAUSE THEY TOOK CUSTOMERS FOR JUST ONE HUNDRED MON, AND SINCE THEY HAD TO DEAL IN QUANTITY, THEIR DEATH RATE FROM STDS WAS VERY HIGH.
HOW COULD THAT BE...?
BECAUSE
BECAUSE!
'A, A CLOSE LOOK AT YOSHI-WARA'?
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH IT?
WHOOSH
'HER FACE IS A LITTLE ABOVE AVERAGE BUT SHE DOESN'T GET VERY WET DOWN THERE...'
'...HER VOICE IS LOUD AND UNFORTUNATELY HER CONDITION IS OVERALL POOR'

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
THIS GUY MUST HAVE WRITTEN THIS WITHOUT EVEN REALLY GIVING YOU A CHANCE
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT.
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD SAY THAT, MR. YAJI.
I DON'T EVEN CARE IF YOU GO TO A KIRI-MISE.
I'LL STILL COME SEE YOU.
YOU'RE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME, MR. YAJI.
YOU ...
. ARE CONCERNED ABOUT MY BODY?
IF YOU SHOULD GET SOME STRANGE DISEASE I WOULD BE MORE THAN DISTRAUGHT.

I'M SORRY!
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S ME.
I WROTE IT
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WROTE...?
YOU DON'T MEAN THE 'CLOSE LOOK'...?
WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE...?
I DIDN'T LIKE IT.
MR. YAJI...
SO I THOUGHT IF I GAVE YOU A BAD REVIEW YOU WOULD BE MY COURTESAN ONLY.
THE IDEA OF YOU BEING TAKEN BY OTHER MEN
IT'S SO STUPID

SWOOSH
がばっ
COURTESAN?
YOU IDIOT ...
GRIP
ぎゅ
YOU REALLY ARE SOME KIND OF IDIOT!
NOW THAT I'VE GIVEN AWAY MY IDENTITY, I CAN'T COME HERE ANYMORE.
NO... I DON'T WANT THAT!
WHISH
ぱっ


GLIDE
BUT ...
I HAVE NO MONEY TO SAVE YOU FROM THIS, NOR DO I HAVE THE GUTS TO HELP YOU RUN AWAY...

WITH THIS ONE PEN I CAN MAKE YOU INTO THE BEST IN JAPAN.

THE BEST IN JAPAN ?

CLANG
CLANG

CLANG
ANYWAY, I WAS SURPRISED.
FOR A REGULAR OLD COURTESAN FROM AN AVERAGE BROTHEL TO SUDDENLY LAND A BIG ONE FROM THE WEST JUST BECAUSE OF "A CLOSE LOOK AT YOSHIWARA"
AT FIRST I THOUGHT SHE HAD BRIBED SOMEONE IMPORTANT FOR IT.
BUT WHEN I GOT UP THE NERVE TO TRY HER OUT SHE WAS EVEN MORE AMAZING THAN IN THE 'CLOSE LOOK.'
BECAUSE OF THAT SHE WAS PROMOTED TO A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AS GRAND COURTESAN YUUGIRI, THE BEST OF YOSHIWARA.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.
THOSE FAMOUS WORDS IN 'A CLOSE LOOK AT YOSHIWARA' WERE UNPRECEDENTED.
IT'S RUMORED THAT A FAMOUS NOVELIST WROTE THAT.
CLANG
IF I WERE A COURTESAN, I'D WANT PEOPLE TO TALK ABOUT ME LIKE THAT TOO.
CRUNCH CRUNCH

'A CLOSE LOOK AT YOSHIWARA,' END

CHAPTER
第十話
10
舟饅頭
BOAT
DUMPLINGS

STOMP
ダン
STOMP
ダン
STOMP

THIS SITUATION IS FAVORABLE FOR A WRITER.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU READ SUCH LONG LINES SO CLEARLY, LEADER.
OH, AT FIRST I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITH SUCH POOR AUDIENCES
BUT RECENTLY REVIEWS HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING.
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN YOU FIRST CAME FLYING IN HERE.
FOR YOU TO WANT TO GIVE UP YOUR SAMURAI HERITAGE TO WRITE KABUKI SCRIPTS...
SEWAMONO = A TYPE OF KABUKI OR JOURURI PLAY WITH A CONTEMPORARY SETTING THAT USES SOCIAL MORES OR CURRENT EVENTS AS A SUBJECT
Y, YEAH ...
WELL ...
ARAGOTO IS FINE TOO, BUT HOW ABOUT TRYING TO WRITE A SEWAMONO PLAY NOW?
I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANY WAY YOU'D LET ME BE HERE.
NOW NOW, TEACHER.
YOUR PLAY WENT PERFECTLY, SO HOW ABOUT WE HAVE A DRINK?
YOU'LL REALLY BECOME A PROPER KABUKI THEATER WRITER WHEN YOU CAN WRITE A PLAY ABOUT THE SUBTLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN
I'M GRATEFUL.
ARAGOTO = A STYLE OF PERFORMANCE EMPHASIZING VIOLENCE BY WARRIORS AND THEIR ILK IN KABUKI AND KYOGEN

GULP
GULP
I WIIINN!
YOU LUCKY BASTARD.
WELL THEN, AS PER OUR ORIGINAL ARRANGEMENT...
HOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
POINT
UHMM...
OH, MY MY.
WE'LL HAVE THE LOSER DRAW THE LOTTERY.
THE LOSER HAS TO BUY 'BOAT DUMPLINGS'...
...OR SO IT SAYS
AHHH, OF ALL THINGS, BOAT DUMPLINGS?
HAHAHA
EHEHEHE

AT THIS TIME, THE CANAL IN EDO WAS VERY WELL DEVELOPED, AND A LOT OF MOVEMENT OF BOTH PEOPLE AND THINGS TOOK PLACE VIA BOAT
DESPITE THE NAME 'BOAT DUMPLINGS' THIS WAS NOT A FOOD
TEACHER, YOUR LANTERN?
IT'S A FULL MOON TONIGHT
I DON'T NEED IT!
PROSTI-TUTION VIA THESE BOATS WAS REFERRED TO AS BOAT DUMPLINGS (FUNA-MANJUU).
I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A LANTERN, HUH.
TCH.
THE MOON'S GONE HIDING.
WELL THEN, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
THESE THICK CLOUDS ARE NO GOOD.
YOU SIRE, OVER THERE.
IF YOU ARE NOT OCCUPIED, HOW ABOUT A BIT OF AMUSEMENT?
THE SAMURAI DIALECT?

IS SHE THE WIFE OF SOME POOR SAMURAI SOMEWHERE?
AFTER THE GENROKU YEARS OF THE EDO PERIOD, THE SAMURAI ALSO BECAME IMPOVERISHED, AND EXERTED THEMSELVES AT SIDE JOBS, JUST TO SOMEHOW MANAGE A LITTLE MORE THAN A BAREBONES EXISTENCE.
THERE WERE CASES WHERE THE WIFE FROM AN IMPOVERISHED SAMURAI FAMILY WOULD BECOME A STREETWALKER, AND THE HUSBAND A LOOKOUT TO MAKE SURE NO ONE RAN OFF WITHOUT PAYING FOR HER SERVICES.
FIDGET もじ
FIDGET もじ
SHE HASN'T BEEN DOING THIS LONG, HUH...?
WELL THEN, I PROBABLY DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING KAKI, THEN
KAKI = SYPHILIS
UM.. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO, I SHAN'T FORCE YOU TO, BUT...
NOW, WAIT.
DON'T BE SO HASTY.
DO YOU COME WITH A BOAT?
THE CAPTAIN IS NOT HERE, BUT IT IS RIGHT OVER THERE ...

BE HAPPY, OMITSU.
SWELL
DASH

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HA HA HA
WOOSH...
PLEASE LET ME WORK HERE!

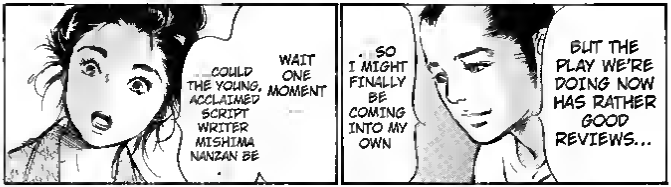
UM..IS SOME-THING WRONG ?
NO NO-THING AT ALL
I JUST REMEMBERED A LITTLE SOMETHING FROM A LONG TIME AGO.
GLIDE
FLUTTER
ぴ。S-

YOU'RE FROM A SAMURAI FAMILY, RIGHT?
PLEASE DO NOT ...
ASK ME SUCH THINGS.
DON'T WORRY.
THOUGH I LOOK LIKE THIS, I WAS ORIGINALLY A SAMURAI
I WON'T SAY ANYTHING IMPROPER.
COME ON, TURN THIS WAY AND LET ME KISS YOU...

NNH..
NH...
SMOOCH
AAAH NN...
SUCK
GRAB
DRIP
AHH
NH
LICK

HUH ...
OMITSU!
OH ...
I...
IT CANNOT BE...
YOU ARE...
WOOSH
SHAKE
WHOA AHHH!
SHAKE/ SHAKE
EEEEKK!
SPLOOSH

SO NOW YOU'RE WORKING AS A MEMBER OF THE THE NIIMURA THEATER?
IT'S NOTHING AS AMAZING AS ALL THAT
I'M A JACK OF ALL TRADES, I JUST DO EVERYTHING FROM LARGE PROPS TO SMALL ERRANDS


WAIT ONE MOMENT
COULD THE YOUNG, ACCLAIMED SCRIPT WRITER MISHIMA NANZAN BE
SO I MIGHT FINALLY BE COMING INTO MY OWN
BUT THE PLAY WE'RE DOING NOW HAS RATHER GOOD REVIEWS...

I'M JUST THE THIRD SON OF A POOR FLAG-BEARER
MY NAME IS ONLY A PUN ON BEING A PATHETIC THIRD SON.

DID I SAY SOMETHING THAT BOTHERED YOU?
HMM ...
IT'S NOT THAT ...
THE MAN MY PARENTS PICKED FOR ME DID NOTHING BUT DRINK, GAMBLE, AND SPEND FROM THE SECOND WE WERE WED
IN THE END HE LAID HIS HANDS ON PUBLIC FUNDS AND COMMITTED SEPPUKU, SO OUR FAMILY WAS DESTROYED.
OMI -TSU ...
MY MOTHER IS SICK, AND I HAVE TROUBLE EVEN BEING ABLE TO FEED US...
THIS IS ... THIS IS ...

COME JUST A LITTLE CLOSER.
YOU'RE WET AND COLD, RIGHT?
AH.
I THREW AWAY BEING A SAMURAI, BECAME A SCRIPT WRITER, AND CHANGED MY NAME.
BUT I'M STILL ALONE.
WHY?
WHY... DO YOU THINK?

DON'T
... LEAVE ME ALONE AGAIN.
DON'T GO AWAY FROM ME.
YOU TOO.

NNHA
SUCK
AAHH
...
NNH.
OMITSU
TUG

AHHH!
SHLK
SHLK
AH!
SHLP
SHLP
SHLK
HUH
ALREADY ?
UUHH!
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
SWOOSH

MY LONGING FOR YOU HAS BEEN BOTTLED UP FOR FIVE YEARS
I COULDN'T BEAR IT.
REALLY ?
I THINK SO
AS PROOF, IT HASN'T CALMED DOWN AT ALL.
TWITCH
TWITCH
GRIP
AH ...
AHH.

AAAHH.
THRUST
EEEEH ...
GRIP
NNHA.

UNH.
UNH
EEEKK.
SHLK
EE.
AAH.
HAAAA.
SHLP
AAHHH
SHLK
TUG
SHLK

...I CAN'T
. GO ANY LONGER ...
... THIS ... IT'S AMAZING
AAHH.
EEK
AH!
OMITSU!
AH!

AAHHHH.
TWIIITCH!

IT'S NOT BAD.

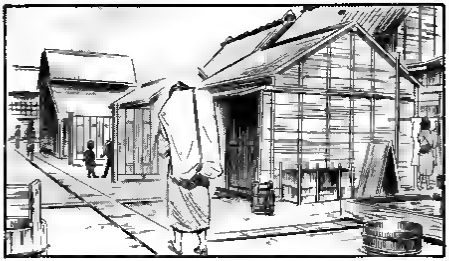
IS .. IT TERRIBLE?

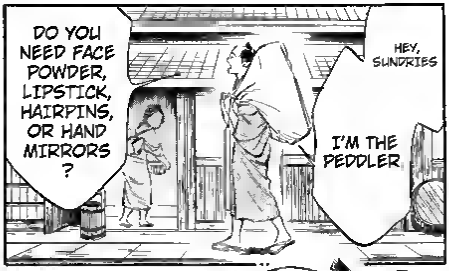
NO, IT'S WELL DONE.
LEADER

MARRIED? BUT I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR LOVE LIFE AT ALL...
SO THEN I SUDDENLY WANTED TO TRY WRITING A SEWAMONO PLAY
ACTUALLY ... I DECIDED TO GET MARRIED.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ALL THE SUDDEN ...?
IT'S SO GOOD THAT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S YOUR FIRST SEWAMONO PLAY
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I WENT TO BUY BOAT DUMPLINGS, BUT I ENDED UP BOARDING FOR A LONG VOYAGE...
HMM... WHAT KIND OF WOMAN IS SHE?
YOU'VE GOT TO EARN ENOUGH FOR TWO FROM NOW ON.
WHAT A LOVELY COUPLE.
NOD
YES
I INTEND TO.

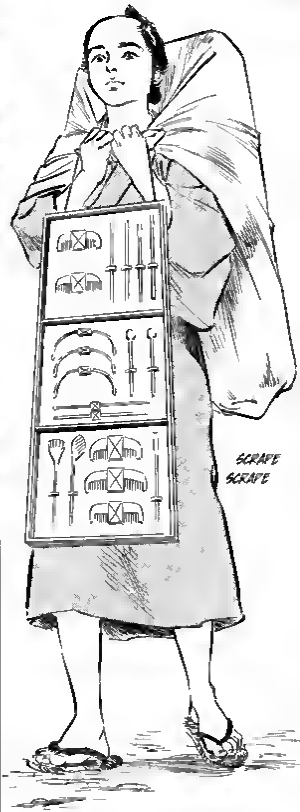
'BOAT DUMPLINGS' END

CHAPTER
第十一話
11
小間物屋
THE PEDDLER




HEY, SUNDRIES
I'M THE PEDDLER
DO YOU NEED FACE POWDER, LIPSTICK, HAIRPINS, OR HAND MIRRORS ?

I'M THE PEDDLER !
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSTANT PATRONAGE

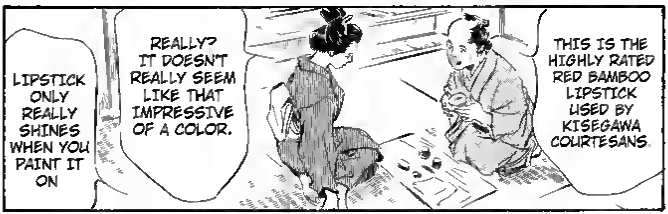

SCRAPE SCRAPE

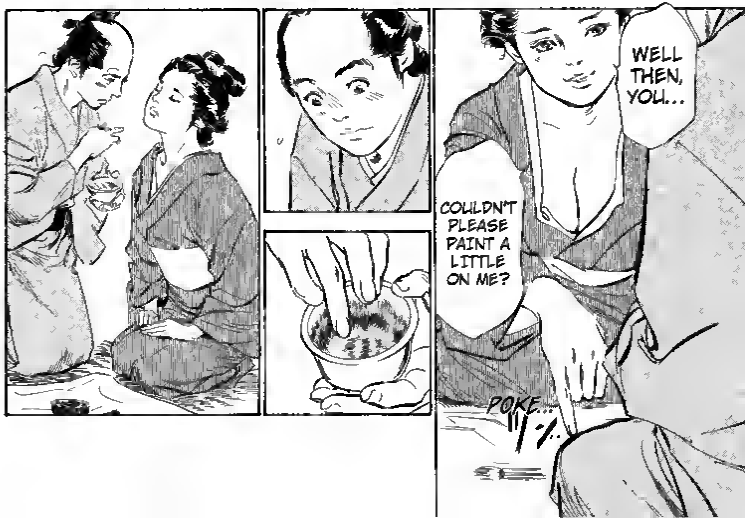
THE PROFIT MARGIN IS THIN, BUT YOU'VE GOT CASH COMING IN EVERY DAY SO IT'S NOT SO BAD.
THIS BUSINESS IS ALL ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU CAN INCREASE YOUR BIG SPENDERS.
LUCKILY, YOU'RE QUITE THE HANDSOME ONE. THE YOUNG GIRLS WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE.
HOW IS IT, SAMANO-SUKE?
HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE BASICS OF WORKING AS A PEDDLER?
I'M FINALLY MANAGING TO MAKE MY SALES PITCH NOW TOO.
YES, THANKS TO YOU.
IS THAT ... ... REALLY TRUE?
BUT ANYWAY, THE OLDER LADIES WITH LOTS OF MONEY ARE YOUR BEST CUSTOMERS.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE LIKED BY THE BEAT-UP OLD THIRTY-SOMETHINGS.
I'M NOT GOOD AT ALL AROUND OLDER WOMEN ...
... POSSIBLY BECAUSE MY MOTHER DIED EARLY
YOU WON'T SELL ANYTHING IF YOU CAN'T HANDLE THEM
...WE NEED A DRASTIC REMEDY HERE.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL HAVE A SECRET WEAPON PREPARED FOR YOU THAT WILL HELP YOU SEDUCE THOSE OLDER LADIES.
TH... BOSS, THAT'S ...
I CAN'T JUST SUDDENLY DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
TOMORROW WE'LL HAVE YOU GO OUT SELLING ON YOUR OWN, AND SEDUCE ONE OF THE OLD LADIES IN KUROMON-CHOU
TH... THAT'S ...
HEY, ONE MOMENT, MR PEDDLER
DO YOU NEED FACE POWDER, LIPSTICK, HAIRPINS, OR HAND MIRRORS?
I'M THE PEDDLER
HEY, I'M THE PEDDLER
BLUSH
JUST LIKE MY BOSS TOLD ME, I'VE COME TO KUROMON-CHOU. BUT FOR ME TO SEDUCE AN OLDER LADY, NOT TO MENTION WITH SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
SHAKE
SHAKE

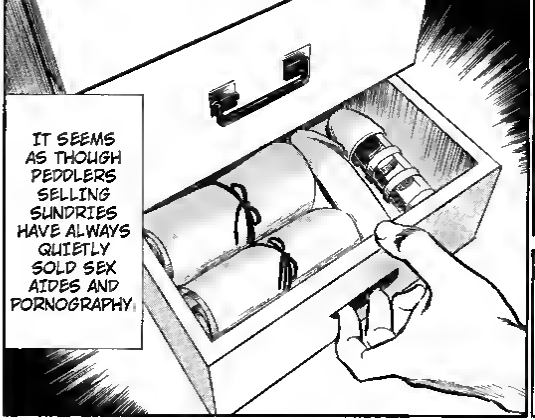
COULD YOU PLEASE DROP BY MY PLACE?
BA-BUMP
A WOMAN ALONE IN A THREE-APARTMENT NAGAYA ROWHOUSE
SHE HAS TO BE THE MISTRESS OF SOME RICH MAN
DON'T BE SHY, COME ON UP TO THE SECOND FLOOR
I WONDER IF I CAN SELL THAT THING IF I PLAY MY CARDS RIGHT

I DON'T LIKE IT, SEEMS SOMEHOW LIKE A STYLE FOR OLDER WOMEN.
IT'S A RATHER DARK BLACKISH COLOR, THOUGH, ISN'T IT?
THIS LIPSTICK IS QUITE GOOD.

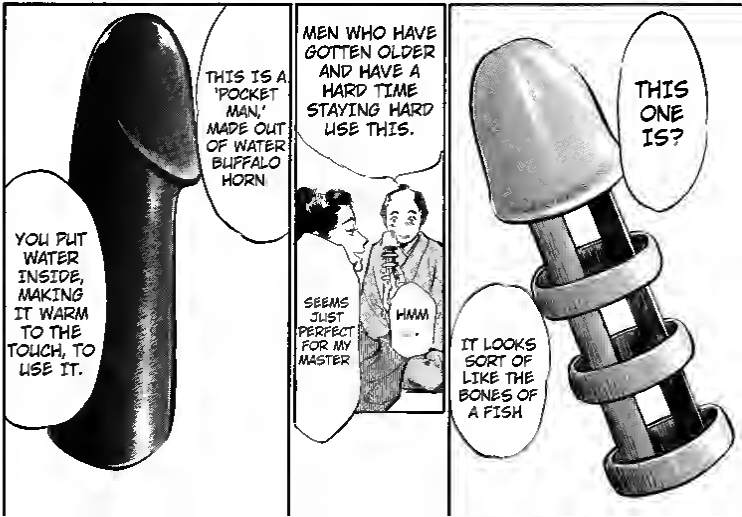

LIPSTICK ONLY REALLY SHINES WHEN YOU PAINT IT ON
REALLY? IT DOESN'T REALLY SEEM LIKE THAT IMPRESSIVE OF A COLOR.
THIS IS THE HIGHLY RATED RED BAMBOO LIPSTICK USED BY KISEGAWA COURTESANS.


WELL THEN, YOU...
COULDN'T PLEASE PAINT A LITTLE ON ME?
POKE...

SQUISH
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WHEN IT DRIES, IT SHINES RATHER NICELY.
WHAT IS THIS?
IT HAS A SHEEN JUST LIKE SOME KIND OF IRIDESCENT INSECT
IT REALLY SUITS YOU.
IT SHINES EVEN MORE BECAUSE YOUR SKIN IS SO WHITE
HEY...
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT I WANT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
HUH...
RECENTLY MY MASTER HAS BEEN CAUTIOUS ABOUT HIS REAL WIFE, SO I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM IN A WHILE. YOU SEE
AAH!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I HAVE IT READY HERE FOR YOU.

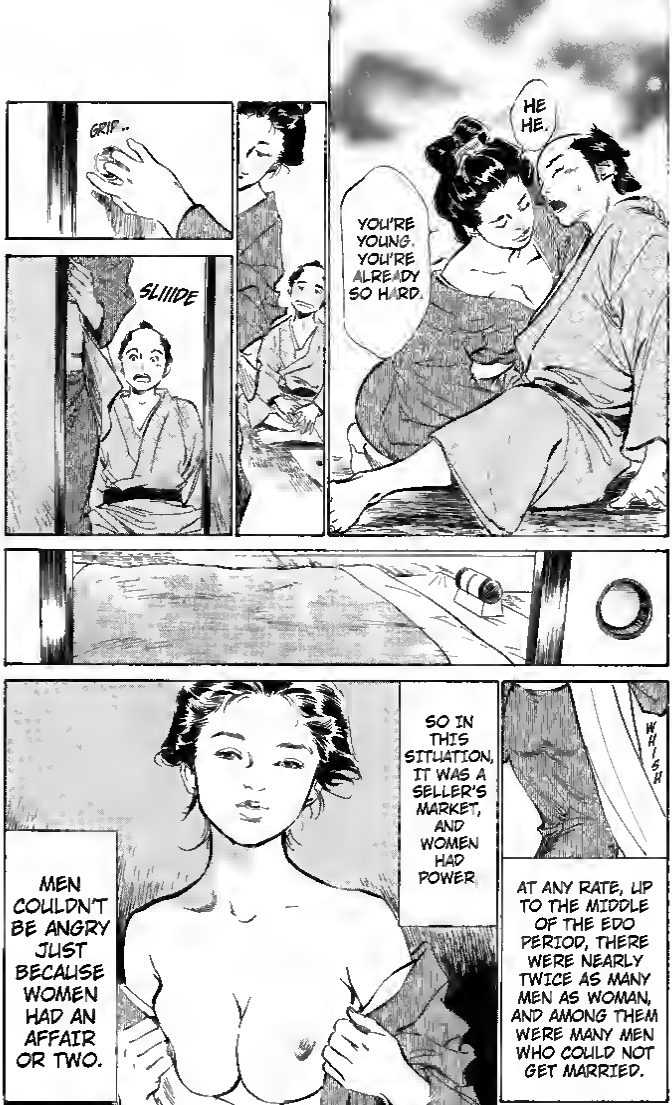

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH PEDDLERS SELLING SUNDRIES HAVE ALWAYS QUIETLY SOLD SEX AIDES AND PORNOGRAPHY.
POP

SO VISITING SALESMEN AND PEDDLERS DISCREETLY SOLD THEM.
'ADULT TOYS' ACTUALLY EXISTED EVEN IN THE EDO PERIOD, BUT WOMEN WERE RELUCTANT TO GO BUY THEM.

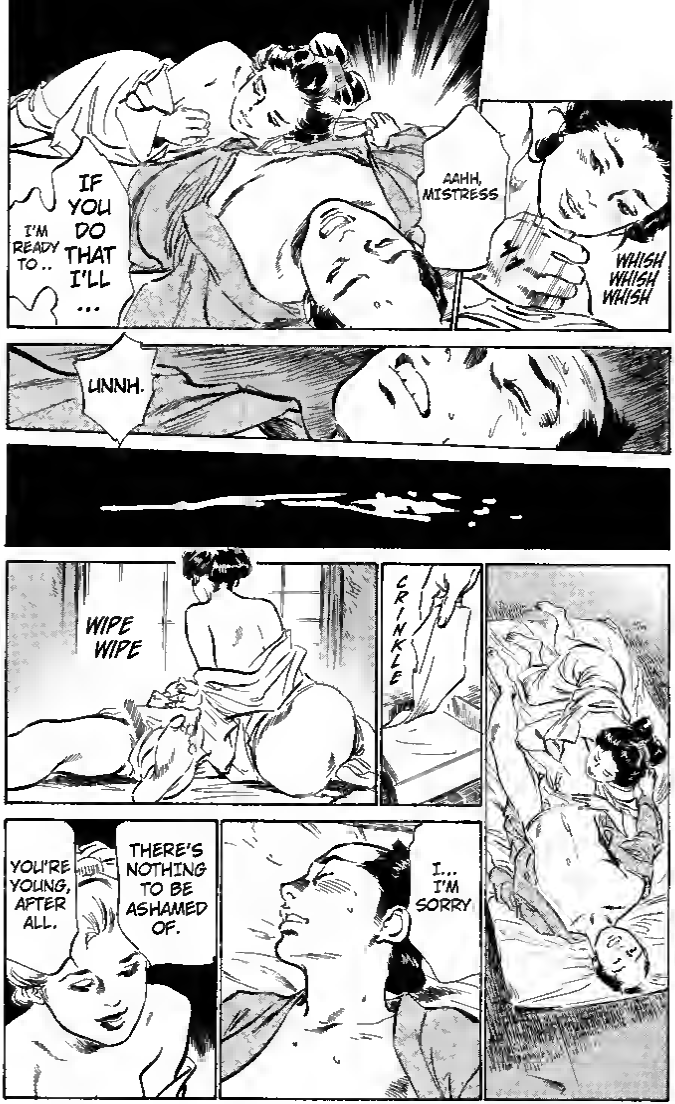

YOU PUT WATER INSIDE, MAKING IT WARM TO THE TOUCH, TO USE IT.
THIS IS A 'POCKET MAN,' MADE OUT OF WATER BUFFALO HORN
MEN WHO HAVE GOTTEN OLDER AND HAVE A HARD TIME STAYING HARD USE THIS.
SEEMS JUST PERFECT FOR MY MASTER
HMM...
IT LOOKS SORT OF LIKE THE BONES OF A FISH
THIS ONE IS?

ARE YOU BIGGER THAN THIS?
BY THE WAY, MR PEDDLER
THIS IS A RATHER ADMIRABLE SIZE
LICK
YOU'RE LYING.
THE BIGGEST ONES ARE ALWAYS THE MOST MODEST, AFTER ALL.
NO, I'M JUST THE PLAIN MAN YOU SEE BEFORE YOU...
I HAVE TO CHECK TO SEE IF YOU'RE A LIAR OR NOT.
GRIP
SLIDE
GULP

LOOK HERE, YOU REALLY WERE A LIAR AFTER ALL.
HE HE HE ...
WOOSH
PLEASE STOP TEASING.
GRIP
AAAH.
LICK...
GRIP


GRIP..
SLIIIDE
YOU'RE YOUNG. YOU'RE ALREADY SO HARD.
HE HE.
WHISH
AT ANY RATE, UP TO THE MIDDLE OF THE EDO PERIOD, THERE WERE NEARLY TWICE AS MANY MEN AS WOMAN, AND AMONG THEM WERE MANY MEN WHO COULD NOT GET MARRIED.
SO IN THIS SITUATION, IT WAS A SELLER'S MARKET, AND WOMEN HAD POWER.
MEN COULDN'T BE ANGRY JUST BECAUSE WOMEN HAD AN AFFAIR OR TWO.

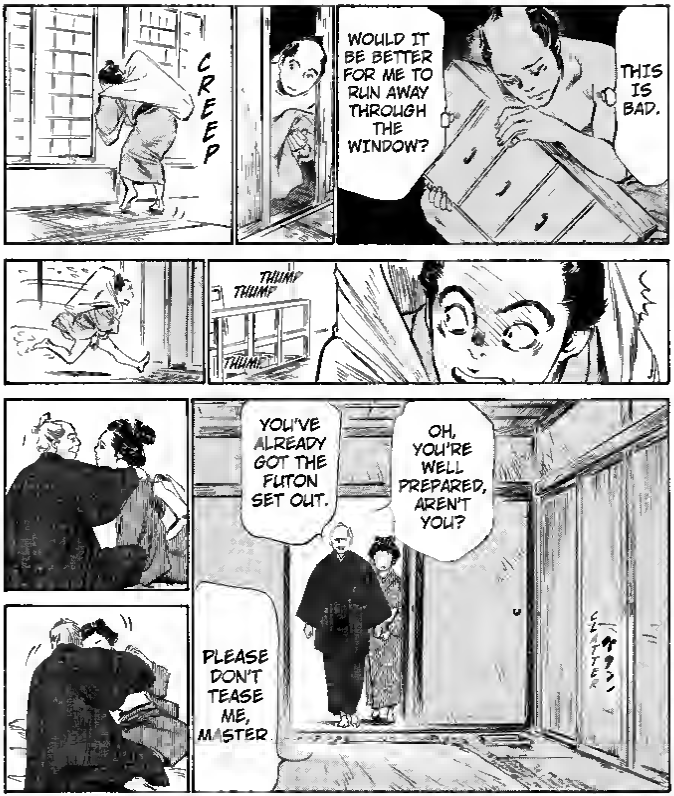
IF THEY GOT UNREASONABLY ANGRY, THE WOMAN WOULD JUST WALK OUT ON THEM
ANYWAY, IT WAS A SELLER'S MARKET, SO THERE WAS ANY NUMBER OF CHANCES TO GET MARRIED AGAIN
THERE REALLY WERE EVEN THE EXPERT AMONG THEM WHO GOT REMARRIED FIVE OR SIX TIMES
IT SEEMS THERE WERE MANY WIVES WHO WOULD HAVE THEIR PICK OF THE SALESMEN AFTER THEIR HUSBANDS WENT TO WORK.
AH.
UNH.


I'M READY TO..
IF YOU DO THAT I'LL ...
AAHH, MISTRESS
WHISH WHISH WHISH
UNNH.
WIPE WIPE
CRINKLE
YOU'RE YOUNG, AFTER ALL.
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.
I... I'M SORRY

NHF.
UNH ...
LOOK, HE'S BACK IN A GOOD MOOD ALREADY.
YOU'RE SO FORMAL ...
CAN'T YOU CALL ME OKEI?
K...
MISS OKEI ...
Id..
WHOOSH
Y, YEAH !
NO REASON TO HURRY.
LET'S TAKE IT SLOW ... OKAY?
SAMANO-SUKE, WAS IT?
MISTRESS

HEY, OKEI, ARE YOU HERE?
OH NO, THAT VOICE IS MY MASTER'S.
HUUUUHHH?!
THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR ME
IF HE WERE TO TURN ME IN TO THE POLICE AS AN ADULTERER...
IT'S A PROBLEM FOR BOTH OF US
ANYWAY, I'LL DO MY BEST TO TRICK HIM, SO GET IN THE CLOSET!
FWISH
FWISH
SLAM
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
I THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD DEAL...
... BUT IT'S TURNED INTO A BAD SITUATION!

WHAT'S WRONG? WHY HAVE YOU COME TO VISIT SO SUDDENLY?
WE HAD A MEETING OF POETS NEARBY
IT ENDED QUICKER THAN I THOUGHT
OH MY, IS THAT SO?
IF YOU HAD TOLD ME, I WOULD HAVE PREPARED FOR YOU.
OH?
COULD THAT BE THE WELL-REVIEWED RED BAMBOO LIPSTICK?
HUH? OH YES.
THEY SAID IT WAS WELL-REGARDED BY THE KISEGAWA COURTESANS
DOES IT NOT SUIT ME?
THAT'S NOT THE CASE.
IT STANDS OUT AGAINST YOUR WHITE SKIN, MAKING IT EVEN GLOSSIER.
SUCH FLATTERY.
HOW COULD IT BE FLATTERY? LET ME GET A GOOD LOOK.


CREEP
WOULD IT BE BETTER FOR ME TO RUN AWAY THROUGH THE WINDOW?
THIS IS BAD.
THUMP THUMP
THUMP
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT THE FUTON SET OUT.
OH, YOU'RE WELL PREPARED, AREN'T YOU?
PLEASE DON'T TEASE ME, MASTER.
CLATTER
BUT YOU SAID YOU'D DO A GOOD JOB OF TRICKING HIM!
HEY HEY ...

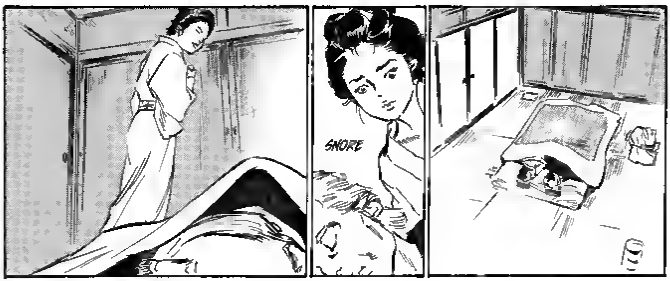
NO, UM ... THAT IS...
HEHEHE, SO YOU WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF COMFORTING YOURSELF WITH THIS, HM?
UNH ...
RUB
RUB
YOU DON'T KNOW THIS WAY OF USING IT YET, DO YOU?
GRIP
AH.
ANN HHH ...
IT'S NOT JUST MADE TO BE PUT INSIDE
NOT JUST MADE TO PENE-TRATE.
IT FEELS GREAT USING IT TO RUB YOU LIKE THIS TOO, RIGHT?

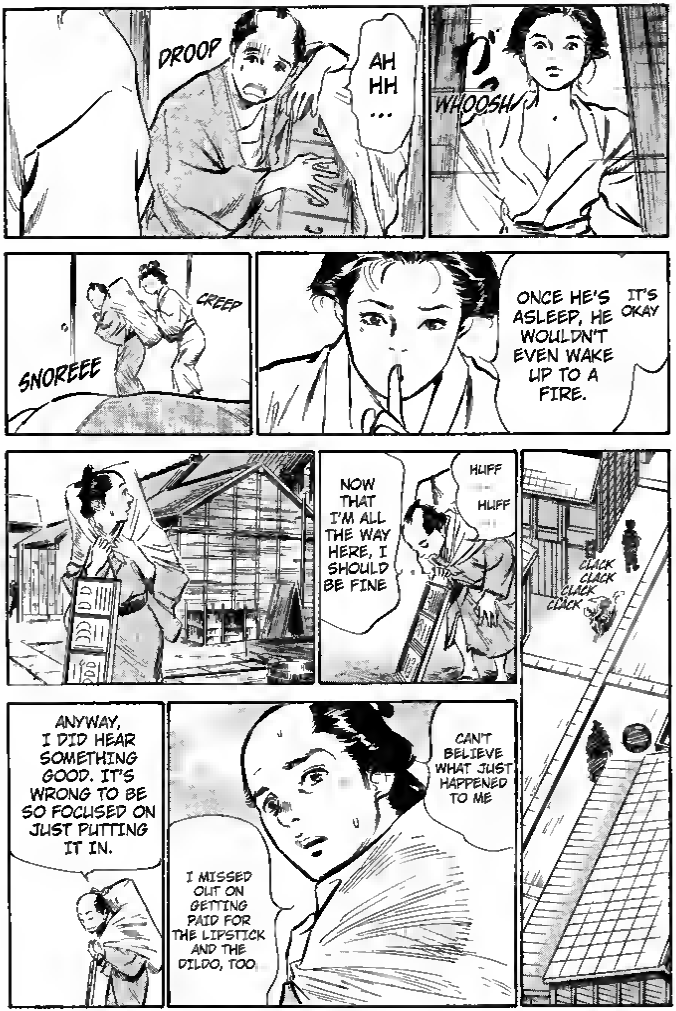
AAH HNN ...
AH HH ...
AAAHHH ...
AH HH HH ...
SLIDE
AAAHHNN ...
IT'S HARD BEING ATTACKED IN THREE PLACES AT ONCE LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
A, AAH NN ...
PLEASE DON'T BE SO CRUEL TO ME.
THE YOUNG HAVE NOTHING IN THEIR MINDS BUT A COMPLETE DEVOTION TO WANTING TO PUT IT IN.
HOW'S THAT?
THE ELDERLY HAVE EXPERIENCE.

POP
HEHEHE, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PREPARED SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
UNH
NNH HAA.
SLIDE
SHL
SHL
SHL
AAHH.
EEEK

EEEEKK.
EEEEK.
AAAH HH!
EEEEKK
NOO ...
IF YOU DO THAT I'M READY TO...
NO MORE ...
OH HH!
SLP
SLP SLP

UNNH ...
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
TWITCH
EEEEEK
TWITCH


SNORE

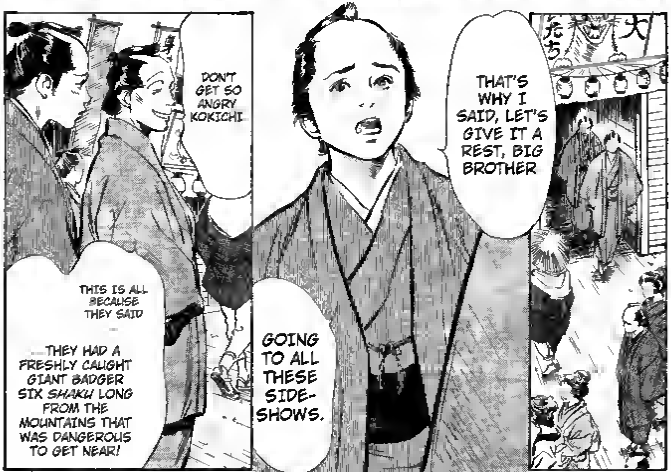

DROOP
AH HH ...
WHOOSH
CREEP
SNOREEE
ONCE HE'S ASLEEP, HE WOULDN'T EVEN WAKE UP TO A FIRE.
IT'S OKAY
NOW THAT I'M ALL THE WAY HERE, I SHOULD BE FINE
HUFF
HUFF
CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK
CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO ME
I MISSED OUT ON GETTING PAID FOR THE LIPSTICK AND THE DILDO, TOO.
ANYWAY, I DID HEAR SOMETHING GOOD. IT'S WRONG TO BE SO FOCUSED ON JUST PUTTING IT IN.

WHY DIDN'T THE MASTER NOTICE MY SHOES?
...HM?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU LIKE IT BETTER WHEN YOU'RE BEING WATCHED, RIGHT?
HE COULDN'T HOLD IT IN AFTER ALL.
SO WE'RE BOTH EVEN.
WELL, HE ALSO HAS SOME GOOD MEMORIES FROM IT.
HEE HEE, WHAT A BAD MAN.
HEE HEE
HEE HEE
AH-CHOO!
HEE HEE
AND YOUR BILL WAS PAID WITH LIPSTICK AND A DILDO?
HIS BOSS ASKED ME TO.
THIS WAS JUST ME HELPING SOMEONE, SO TO SPEAK.
ASKED ME TO GET HIM USED TO WOMEN.

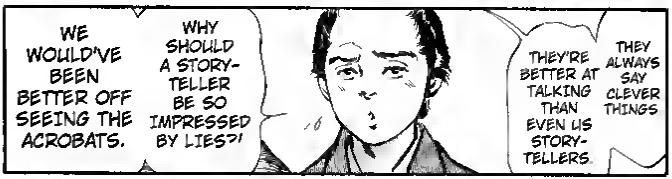
'THE PEDDLER' END

CHAPTER
第十二話
12
火吹竹
THE
BAMBOO
BELLOWS

KOEDO!
KAWAGOE!


DON'T GET SO ANGRY KOKICHI
THAT'S WHY I SAID, LET'S GIVE IT A REST, BIG BROTHER
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE THEY SAID
...THEY HAD A FRESHLY CAUGHT GIANT BADGER SIX SHAKU LONG FROM THE MOUNTAINS THAT WAS DANGEROUS TO GET NEAR!
GOING TO ALL THESE SIDE-SHOWS.

IT'S A BOARD, THAT'S WHY IT CAME FROM THE MOUNTAIN
AND IF IT FALLS DOWN YOU'D GET HURT, SO THAT'S WHY THEY SAID IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO GET CLOSE
AND THEY CLAIMED 'THIS IS THE REAL GIANT BADGER.' THEY'RE MAKING A FOOL OUT OF YOU.
IT WAS JUST A SIX SHAKU LONG BOARD WITH BADGES ON IT!
AND WHEN YOU PAID SIXTEEN WHOLE MON TO GET IN.


WE WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF SEEING THE ACROBATS.
WHY SHOULD A STORY-TELLER BE SO IMPRESSED BY LIES?!
THEY'RE BETTER AT TALKING THAN EVEN US STORY-TELLERS.
THEY ALWAYS SAY CLEVER THINGS

SNAKE WOMAN
DO IT, BLOW IT.
IT'S NOT GOOD TO BE SO SERIOUS
LETTING YOURSELF BE TRICKED INTENTIONALLY HAS ITS OWN KIND OF CHARM.
LET'S GO IN ONE MORE.
WHAT IS THIS?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SO EMBARRASSED ABOUT? YOU'RE A PERFORMER, RIGHT?
LOOK AT HER! IT'S AMAZING, KOKICHI!
BIG BROTHER, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE SO LOUD...

SHLPP
SLIDE
AAHHH...
IT'S BECAUSE SOMEONE SHOWED ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT SO SUDDENLY
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY GOT A NOSE-BLEED
I'M GOING HOME
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK LIKE THAT
AFTER ALL, THERE'S STILL ONE MORE
ONE MORE ?

WOW, IS SHE NEW? SHE'S DIFFERENT FROM THE WOMAN YESTERDAY.
THAT NAIVE ATMO-SPHERE SHE HAS IS GREAT
HAND ONE OVER HERE TOO!
ONE FOR ME, TOO!
BIG BROTHER, WHAT IS THAT?
A BAMBOO BELLOWS
GIVE ME ONE TOO, PLEASE.
WELL, JUST YOU WATCH.

WHOOOSH
THUD THUD THUD THUD
JUST A LITTLE MORE UNTIL THE REVEAL!
DO IT! BLOW IT!
REACH THE SKY!
DO IT! BLOW IT!

JUST A LITTLE MORE UNTIL THE REVEAL!
WOAHH, GREAT.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING! WE'VE GOT TO COORDINATE OUR BREATH TOGETHER MORE
WHOOOSH
GO!
WHOOOAAH?!
WOBBLE WOBBLE
OH. I CAN'T HANDLE ANY MORE.
KOKICHI, TAKE OVER FOR ME.
PLEASE DON'T HAND IT OVER TO SOME-ONE ELSE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BLOW, PUT TWELVE MON IN.
CHA-CHING
HOW SHREWD OF YOU

REACH THE SKY!
DO IT! BLOW IT!
HEY, I PAID ALREADY, SO BLOW, KOKICHI!
WAHOOOH
DO IT! BLOW IT!
WHOOSHHH
DO IT!
BLOW IT! REACH THE SKY!
JUST A LITTLE MORE UNTIL THE REVEAL!
DO IT BLOW IT

HA HA HA
HA HA HA
TWEEDLE TWEEDLE
TWEEDLE TWEEDLE
TWANG TWANG TWANG
BUMP BUMP
AND THAT'S ALL FROM ME!
TAIKO DRUM AND FLUTE ARE ALSO OPENING PERFORMERS, AND IMPORTANT TO PRACTICE!
HOW CAN YOU PLAY IN A DAZE LIKE THAT!
YEAH ...
TWEEEE!
TWEE
BUMP BA-BUMP
TWANG TWANG

THWACK!
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, YOU IDIOT?!
OW, PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MASTER!
I FEEL BAD FOR HIM WHEN HE GETS YELLED AT
THE FLUTE IS EVEN HARDER THAN THE TAIKO DRUM, AFTER ALL
I CAN'T EVEN MAKE A SOUND ON IT.
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF BRAG, YOU FOOL?!
A FLUTE MAKES A BEAUTIFUL SOUND WHEN YOU GATHER ALL YOUR BREATH FORWARD INTO ONE SPOT.
...GATHER ALL YOUR BREATH FORWARD INTO ONE SPOT...
MASTER DANJI-ROU!
WHAT?
PLEASE TEACH ME SECRETS TO PLAYING THE FLUTE
WHY ARE YOU YELLING! DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
WH, WHAT? WHAT?
YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO WORK HARD AT IT?
SNAKE WOMAN
DO IT

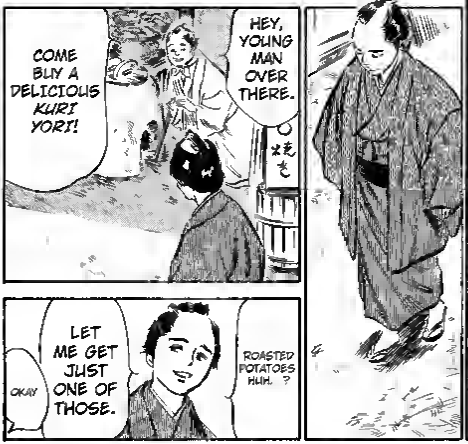
JUST A LITTLE MORE UNTIL THE REVEAL!
DO IT! BLOW IT! REACH THE SKY!
YOU'VE GOT TO GO AT IT LIKE THREADING A NEEDLE.
IT'S ABOUT HOW LONG YOU CAN MAINTAIN THE RELEASE OF A CONSISTENT LEVEL OF BREATH WITHOUT INTERRUPTION...
IT'S NOT JUST ALL ABOUT BLOWING IT ENERGETICALLY
GOOD JOB, BOY!
DO IT! BLOW IT!
REACH THE SKY!
WHAAAAA?!
A CONSISTENT LEVEL
WITHOUT INTERRUPTION!

JUST A LITTLE MORE UNTIL THE REVEAL!
DO IT!
BLOW IT!
BLOW EVEN MORE!!
WHOOSHHH
WHOOSH
HEY HEY, WHAT'S WRONG, BOY?
THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP
AMAZING, KID!
YOU DID ITTT!

DAZE...
ONE MONTH LATER
YOUR FACE SAYS IT'S SOMETHING.
YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT THAT GIRL, RIGHT?
...
IT'S NOTHING ...
YOU WEREN'T FOCUSED
YOU WERE CARELESS UP ON STAGE TODAY TOO
WHAT ARE YOU DAYDREAMING ABOUT?
BIG BROTHER
...THE DAY AFTER THAT.
I WENT TO THE SIDESHOW ..
OH, THAT GIRL WAS YESTERDAY ONLY.
SHE WAS STANDING IN FOR THIS COURTESAN
W, WH, WHAT IS THIS, ALL OF THE SUDDEN ?!
SHE'S DIFFERENT!
WHY IS SHE DIFFERENT ?!
SO THEN SHE WON'T APPEAR HERE ANYMORE ?
STANDING IN?

I TRIED ASKING, BUT THEY JUST SAID 'DON'T ASK BOORISH QUESTIONS,' AND WOULDN'T EVEN TAKE ME SERIOUSLY
SO THEN, YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT WOMAN IS?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT?! I DON'T CARE WHO THE PERSON I FALL IN LOVE WITH IS!
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE SO PURE TOO. FOR YOU TO FALL IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN IN A SIDESHOW AND END UP WITH RELATIONSHIP TROUBLE ..
AMATEUR ?
...NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, MIGHT BE AN AMATEUR
THAT GIRL ..
AHH... THE BLOW IT GIRL ...
CAN YOU REALLY FALL THAT IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN YOU'VE NEVER EVEN SPOKEN TOO JUST BY SEEING A LITTLE BODY HAIR OF HERS..
COULDN'T SHE BE SOMETHING LIKE A RICE-BOILING WOMAN FROM SHINAGAWA ...?
NOW THAT MUCH, I DON'T KNOW.
SO BECAUSE OF THAT THERE'S NO WAY FOR THEM TO TELL HER LOCATION ...
BECAUSE THE COURTESAN WAS UNABLE TO WORK WITH A COLD OR WHATEVER, DURING THEIR IMPORTANT EARNING HOURS .
...THEY COULD HAVE ASKED A RANDOM AMATEUR TO FILL IN FOR HER
I WONDER WHERE SHE'S FROM?
I WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN, EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONCE MORE ..

BECAUSE THE DISTANCE FROM EDO TO KAWAGOE WAS ABOUT 13 RI, AND BECAUSE THE FLAVOR IS SIMILAR TO CHESTNUT, THIS WAS A PHRASE THAT WAS USED TO REFER TO THE FAMOUS PRODUCT OF KAWAGOE, THE JAPANESE ROASTED SWEET POTATO. THE WORD COMES FROM 9 RI 4 RI (TSU) AS MUI I YOTE, OR "BETTER THAN CHESTNUTS") WHICH WHEN ADDED UP BECOMES 13 RI (TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: TO KAWAGOE AND JAPANESE SWEET POTATO)



AAHH!
I'LL COME GET THE PAYMENT TOMORROW
THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP
WE, WELL THEN, I'LL JUST BE GOING ...
GASP...
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

STOP HIDING AND COME ON OUT.
"CRACKLE"
U, UM ...
I... UM ...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT
BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY!
MONEY?
WHAT ARE YOU ...?
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
IF IT'S NOT MONEY, THEN MY BODY?
EH, UM...
JUST A MINUTE
FINE, I UNDER-STAND!

AWHOOSH
THU...

ほろ
DRIP
ほろ
DRIP
!
HUH... RAIN?
ポツ
DRIP
...
WE DIDN'T HAVE MONEY TO BUY MEDICINE OR ANYTHING, SO... I HAD TO DO IT...
I COULDN'T HELP IT... MY MOM IS REALLY SICK.
I, I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
DON'T CRY!
BUT I MADE YOU CRY. I WASN'T TRYING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS. I'M ALL CONFUSED...
I WANTED TO SEE YOU ONCE MORE... SEE YOU AND TALK TO YOU... IT'S ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT...
GRAB
THAT'S NOT IT!
UM... WHAT ARE YOU...?

I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU!
I'M STILL JUST A STORYTELLER IN THE OPENING PERFORMANCES
...
BUT WHEN I BECOME FUTATSU-ME, PLEASE MARRY ME!
BUT I... EXPOSED MYSELF ...
IN FRONT OF PEOPLE, FOR MONEY... ARE YOU OKAY WITH A WOMAN LIKE THAT?
FUTATSU-ME = THE NAME OF THE HIGHEST RANK ON THE OPENING PERFORMANCE. IN REALITY, AFTER YOU ARE HERE YOU WILL GO TO THE PODIUM.
YOU DIDN'T DO IT FOR MONEY! TYOU DID IT FOR YOUR SICK MOM, RIGHT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH FILIAL PIETY?!
I'M SO HAPPY!
WAHH
AH OW!
THUD
EEEK!
WAAHH! I DIDN'T LOOK!
WHOOSH
I DIDN'T LOOK!
HEH..

HEY... YOU WANT TO SEE AFTER ALL, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, SEE...
PLEASE DON'T MAKE A GIRL SAY IT ..
NOD
NOD
AH... AH...
POKE...
GLIDE...

AH..
IT'S OKAY
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME...
...
SO...
IT'S MY FIRST TIME TOO.
DON'T BE ROUGH.
GRIP
AH.
UH.
AH!

UNH.
TWITCH
TWITCH
BOUNCE
AAH HH.
HAH AHA.
HEH EHE
HEE HEE.
HAHAHAHA
THE MUSIC HALL
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO THAT LITTLE BASTARD KOKICHI
HE WAS SUCH AN IDIOT UNTIL YESTERDAY
SLAP
AND THAT'S ALL FROM ME!
NO IDEA. HIS ENERGY IS COMPLETELY UNUSUAL
BWAHAHAHA

CHAPTER 13

第十三話

女相撲

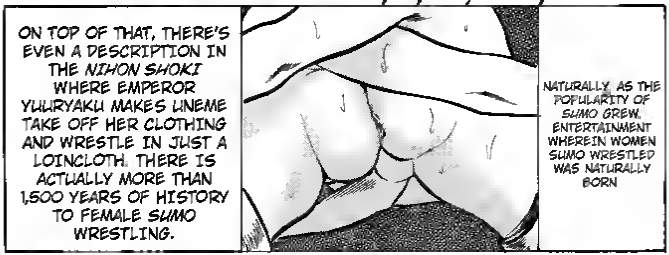
LADIES' SUMO

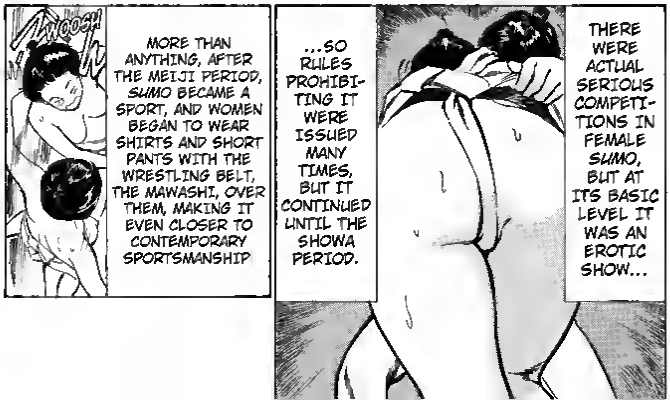
L—LORD SAKAKIBARA!
I TRULY THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME AT THIS TIME...
NO NEED FOR THIS KIND OF FORMAL GREETING. WE'RE PUTTING ASIDE ALL RANKS TONIGHT.
YOU DRINK TOO!
HOHLE
GULP
GULP
GULP
GULP

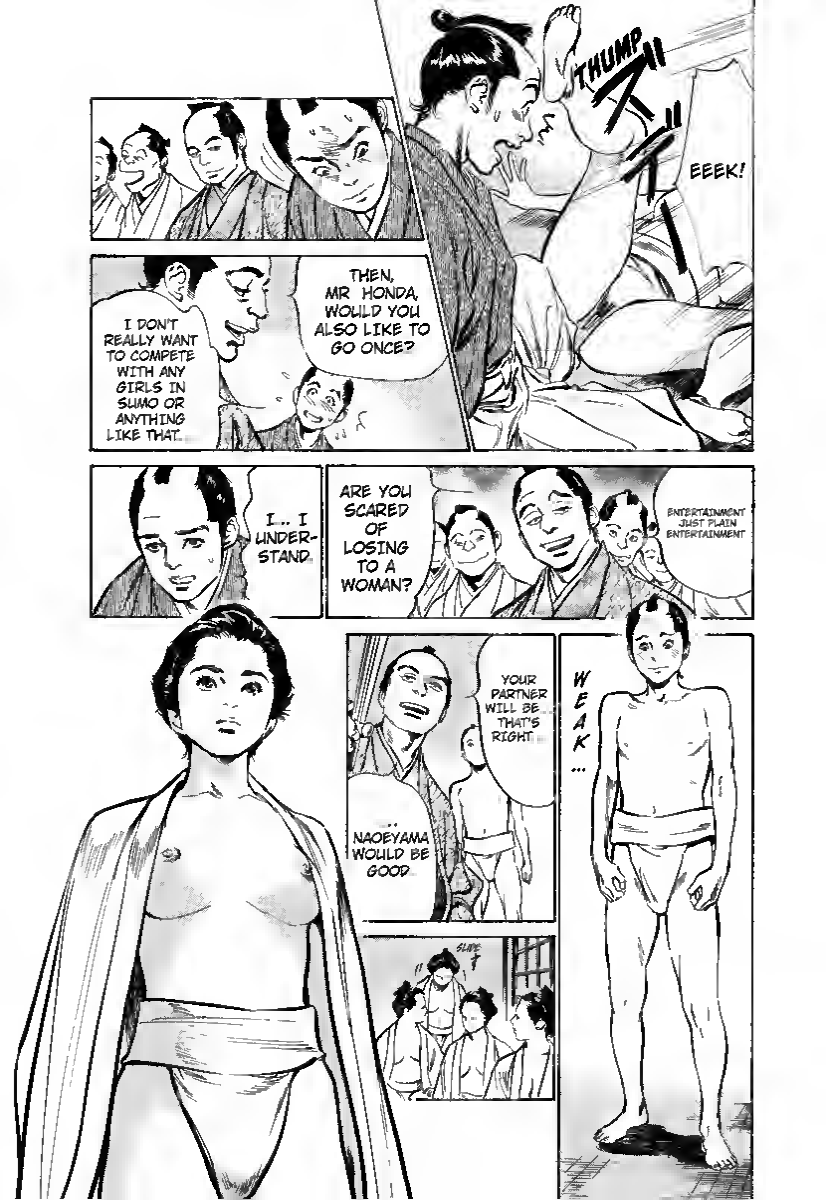
FORGIVE ME..
FOR YOU TO NOT EVEN BE ABLE TO DRINK THAT MUCH SAKE IS PATHETIC
WHAT'S THIS?
COUGH, COUGH
SO MANY SONS OF THE FAVORED DAIMYO AROUND HIM WITH PROMISING FUTURES..
APPOINTED TO AN IMPORTANT POSITION FROM SUCH A YOUNG AGE.
IT'S EVEN RUMORED THAT HE'LL BECOME COUNCILOR SOON
JUST AS I EXPECTED FROM THE LORD HIGH COUNCILOR SAKAKIBARA DEWANOKAMI'S SON.
...WHY WOULD A NOVICE SUCH AS MYSELF SUDDENLY BE CALLED TO DRINK WITH HIM?
BUT...
WELL THEN, AS THE SAKE HAS ALREADY GONE AROUND...
...IS IT ABOUT TIME WE GET STARTED WITH OUR USUAL AMUSEMENTS!?
CLAP!
CLAP!

SLIDE
WELL THEN, I'LL GIVE A PRIZE TO THE WINNER.
AND IF YOU LOSE GRACEFULLY I'LL GIVE YOU A PRIZE TOO.

SUMO WRESTLERS WERE AS POPULAR AS FIREMEN AND KABUKI ACTORS
STRONG WRESTLERS WERE EMPLOYED BY THE DAIMYO, AND WOULD EVEN RECEIVE SAMURAI STATUS.
THINK ABOUT EDO PERIOD AMUSEMENTS, AND THREE COME TO MIND: THE THEATRE, THE YOSHIWARA AND SUMO.
GRIP!

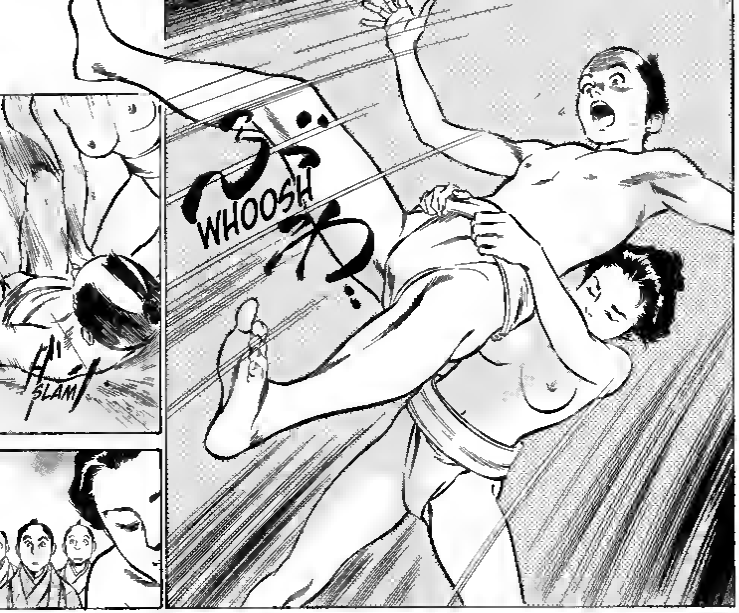

ON TOP OF THAT, THERE'S EVEN A DESCRIPTION IN THE NIHON SHOKI WHERE EMPEROR YUURYAKU MAKES UNEME TAKE OFF HER CLOTHING AND WRESTLE IN JUST A LOINCLOTH. THERE IS ACTUALLY MORE THAN 1,500 YEARS OF HISTORY TO FEMALE SUMO WRESTLING.
NATURALLY, AS THE POPULARITY OF SUMO GREW, ENTERTAINMENT WHEREIN WOMEN SUMO WRESTLED WAS NATURALLY BORN

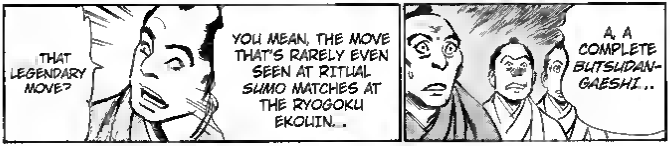

Aaaaaah!
MORE THAN ANYTHING, AFTER THE MEIJI PERIOD, SUMO BECAME A SPORT, AND WOMEN BEGAN TO WEAR SHIRTS AND SHORT PANTS WITH THE WRESTLING BELT, THE MAWASHI, OVER THEM, MAKING IT EVEN CLOSER TO CONTEMPORARY SPORTSMANSHIP.
...SO RULES PROHIBITING IT WERE ISSUED MANY TIMES, BUT IT CONTINUED UNTIL THE SHOWA PERIOD.
THERE WERE ACTUAL SERIOUS COMPETITIONS IN FEMALE SUMO, BUT AT ITS BASIC LEVEL IT WAS AN EROTIC SHOW...

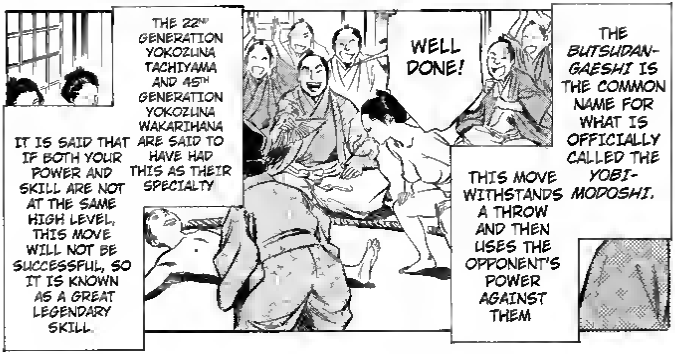

THUMP
EEEK!
THEN, MR HONDA, WOULD YOU ALSO LIKE TO GO ONCE?
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO COMPETE WITH ANY GIRLS IN SUMO OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
I... I UNDER-STAND.
ARE YOU SCARED OF LOSING TO A WOMAN?
ENTERTAINMENT JUST PLAIN ENTERTAINMENT
YOUR PARTNER WILL BE THAT'S RIGHT.
...NAOEYAMA WOULD BE GOOD.
SLIDE
WEAK...

WOOSH
THUMP
SHE'S NO AMATEUR
FOR HER TO BE ABLE TO RAISE HER LEG SO HIGH IN THE OPENING MOVES...
HA HA HA HA HA
NI
WHAM
WAHH, OW OW...
HAKKIYOOOI!
LOOK AT EACH OTHER, LOOK AT EACH OTHER...

WAH ...
H, HER CHEST ...
THE TIPS TOUCHED ME..
NOKOTTA!
GRAB
HEY, MR. HONDA.
YOU DON'T TRY HARDER YOU'LL GET THROWN OUT OF THE RING
GRIP
SL SL SLIDE
WHAT'S THIS?!
WH ...
GRIP
OH... THE SCENT OF HAIR OIL...
TUG
SWHOOSH
GRIP
AHHH!
SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A WOMAN AT ALL
W, W, WHAT POWER!


WHOOSH
SLAM!


THAT LEGENDARY MOVE?
YOU MEAN, THE MOVE THAT'S RARELY EVEN SEEN AT RITUAL SUMO MATCHES AT THE RYOGOKU EKOUIN...
A, A COMPLETE BUTSUDAN-GAESHI..


IT IS SAID THAT IF BOTH YOUR POWER AND SKILL ARE NOT AT THE SAME HIGH LEVEL, THIS MOVE WILL NOT BE SUCCESSFUL, SO IT IS KNOWN AS A GREAT LEGENDARY SKILL.
THE 22ND GENERATION YOKOZUNA TACHIYAMA AND 45TH GENERATION YOKOZUNA WAKARIHANA ARE SAID TO HAVE HAD THIS AS THEIR SPECIALTY
WELL DONE!
THE BUTSUDAN-GAESHI IS THE COMMON NAME FOR WHAT IS OFFICIALLY CALLED THE YOBI-MODOSHI.
THIS MOVE WITHSTANDS A THROW AND THEN USES THE OPPONENT'S POWER AGAINST THEM

NAOE-YAMAAA!
YOUR REWARD, NAOEYAMA!
I'LL GIVE YOU A REWARD AS WELL!
HONDA, DID YOU TWIST YOUR NECK OR SOMETHING?
N, NO, NO.
NOTHING IS TWISTED OR SPRAINED AT ALL
DON'T WORRY JUST BECAUSE YOU LOST
MEAN, IT IS NAOE-YAMA.. AFTER ALL.
WAH!
WHOOSH
WHOOO...

MR. HONDA'S ... OINARI-SAMA*.
HM? WHAT'S WRONG NAOEYAMA?
* SLANG FOR BALLS. LIKENING THE SCROTUM TO WRINKLED TOFU.
HAHAHA
WHOOSH
HAHAHA
JUST CALL HIM ANY-THING.
EVEN IF NAOEYAMA IS STRONG, WHAT KIND OF A YOUNG MAN LOSES TO A YOBI-MODOSHI.
BLOP
FROM THE VERY START HE CALLED ME HERE INTENDING TO MAKE ME INTO A LAUGHINGSTOCK ...?!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
BAM
SHOULD WE CALL HIM YOUNG LORD YOBI-MODOSHI, OR HOW ABOUT SIR INARI DAIMYOJIN?

CAN YOU PLEASE TEACH ME SUMO?
AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, YOU'RE A SAMURAI FROM A RATHER GOOD FAMILY..
...SO WHY HAVE YOU COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?
PLEASE DON'T ASK ME THE REASON.
NO MATTER WHAT ...
THERE IS A PERSON I WANT TO WIN AGAINST!
I'LL TREAT YOU THE SAME AS THE OTHER PUPILS...
...BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND THAT, COME HERE DURING THE HOUR OF THE TIGER TOMORROW
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

UHGAAAHHHH!
4 A.M.
DON'T SCREAM LIKE A GIRL!
IF YOU CAN'T DO A SPLIT YOU'LL GET HURT DURING PRACTICE
HOW SLOPPY! YOU'RE JUST ALL TALK AFTER ALL!
NOT YET...
N...
CREAK
CREAK

SLAM
COME AT ME!
ONCE MORE!
...I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO REQUEST ONE MORE MATCH.
THAT WAS JUST ONE NIGHT'S ENTER-TAINMENT
HALF A YEAR LATER

IF YOU WANT TO DO SUMO SO BADLY YOU SHOULD TRY TO FIND HER YOURSELF.
SORRY, BUT I CAN'T JUST GO TELLING SOME RANDOM PERSON FROM SOMEWHERE WHERE THEY ARE.
BUT, BUT THAT'S ...
CLACK
I JUST WANT TO GET BACK MY LOSS AT SUMO!
NO, NO!
EVEN IF THAT HADN'T BEEN LORD SAKAKIBARA TO START WITH, IT'S NO WONDER HE WAS SHOCKED BY MY REQUEST.
HOW COULD I WANT A REMATCH WITH A GIRL...
POOF
ぼわん
OTHERWISE HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO SHOW MY FACE?

JUST CALL HIM ANYTHING. SHOULD WE CALL HIM YOUNG LORD YOBI-MODOSHI, OR HOW ABOUT SIR INARI DAIMYOJIN?
EVEN IF NAOEYAMA IS STRONG, WHAT KIND OF A YOUNG MAN LOSES TO A YOBI-MODOSHI?
IS SHE A PROSTITUTE FROM SOMEWHERE?
IF SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL, SHE CAN'T JUST BE AN AMATEUR
THAT WOULD BE THE CHOUJI-YA
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, I'VE HEARD THAT THE MANNER OF SPEAKING AT EACH OF THE LARGE BROTHELS IN YOSHIWARA IS DIFFERENT!
SO THE CHOUJI-YA MAINLY ADD 'ZANSU,' OR 'NANSHI' THEN?
FOR EXAMPLE, THE MATSUBA-YA SAY THINGS LIKE 'JIRETTOOSU,' AND 'YOHOSU' THEY ADD 'OSU' TO THE ENDS OF THEIR WORDS.
CHOUJI-YA? I DON'T KNOW THE SLIGHTEST THING ABOUT YOSHIWARA
THE NAKAMANJI-YA SAYS 'TABAKO NOMINAMASHI,' AND LIKE THAT, THEY ADD 'MASHI.'
THAT'S HER!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT SEEMS THERE'S A COURTESAN AT THE CHOUJI-YA WHO WON AGAINST A JUNIOR GRADE SUMO PROFESSIONAL
IS THAT RIGHT
WELL THE KUKIMANJI-YA ALSO ADD 'WANSHI' SO YOU CAN'T ABSOLUTELY SAY SO

YOSHI-WARA
CHOUJI-YA
丁子屋
OVER HERE, YOUNG MAN.
NICE OUTFIT.
WON'T YOU COME BY AND PLAY?
IS NAOE-YAMA IN?
OH!
THE YOUNG LORD YOBI-MODOSHI REQUESTS A MATCH...
...I SAY.

* AN IDIOM MEANING "GONE TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."
...I WON'T TAKE IT EASY ON YOU EITHER!
SINCE YOU'VE TRAVELED ALL THE WAY TO NAGASAKI TO TAKE REVENGE FOR EDO*
GOOD JOB AT FINDING THIS PLACE.
SLIDE
I'LL BE YOUR PARTNER UNTIL YOU'RE JUST SHOOTING BLANKS.
I BEG YOU FOR JUST ONE MATCH!
BY 'BEG ME FOR A MATCH,' YOU MEAN, SUMO?
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!
I'M NOT MAKING FUN OF YOU.
I'M DEEPLY EMBARRASSED THAT I LOST A MATCH TO YOU ON A YOBI-MODOSHI.
FOR HALF A YEAR SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN TRAINING UNDER MY BOSS.
PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU.

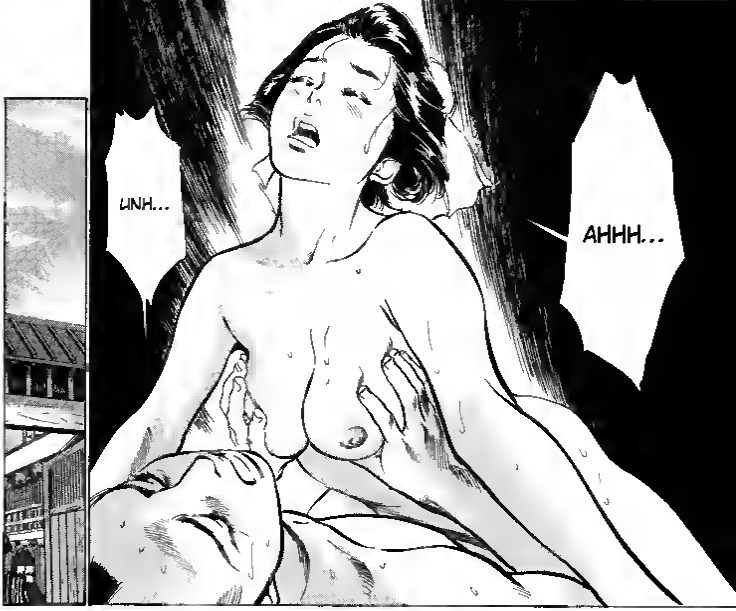
HUH?
JUST ONE MATCH, AND IF YOU LOSE YOU'LL GIVE UP HERE AND GO STRAIGHT HOME.
IS THAT ACCEPT-ABLE?
OF COURSE IT'S ACCEPT-ABLE!
IT IS!
HOWEVER, I'M NOT SO UNSKILLED THAT YOUR PRETENSIONS WILL GET PAST ME.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE BEEN VERY DEVOTED.
GRH ...
GRIP
WHAM

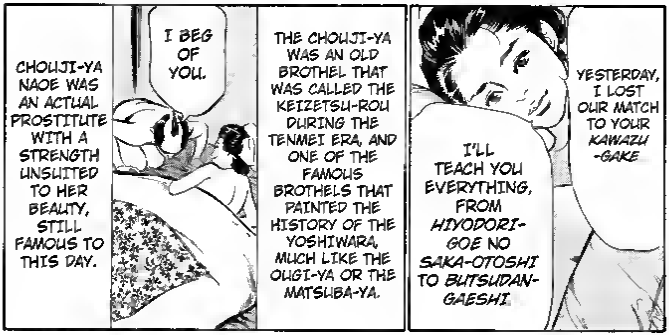
PUSH
IF SHE'S THE TYPE OF WRESTLER WHO CAN USE YOBI-MODOSHI ON YOU, THEN SHE'S GOT CONFIDENCE IN HER ABILITIES
WHEN YOU COME TO FORCE-FULLY THROW HER, FIRST SHE'LL JUST BEAR IT
YOU'VE TRAINED A BIT...
BUT IF THAT'S SO ...!
I, PUSH...
YOUR OPPONENT WILL WRAP HER ARMS AROUND YOU AND TRY TO WRAP HER LEGS AROUND YOU FROM THE OUTSIDE AND SHE'LL TRY TO KNOCK YOU DOWN WITH HER FULL FORCE. AND THAT'S WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE!
GRAB
WOAHHHH!
KTLG

I,
I WON...
SLAM
I WON!
ALL BECAUSE I TRAINED THIS HALF YEAR!
OH, I'M SO GLAD I COULD WIN...

*THE *SHIJUU HATTE* IS A SET OF 48 SEX POSITIONS FAMOUS IN JAPAN

THIS IS THE SHIGIRE-CHAUSU
SHK
AAHH..IT'S LIKE YOUR PUSSY IS GRIPPING ONTO ME, COURTESAN
SHK
THIS IS ONE ON ONE.
THE REAL 48 MOVES START NOW.
SHK
SHK
SHK
SUMO ISN'T THE ONLY IMPORTANT THING...
UNH.
..YOU KNOW.
UNH.
AH
UNH
AH!




CHOUJI-YA NAOE WAS AN ACTUAL PROSTITUTE WITH A STRENGTH UNSUITED TO HER BEAUTY, STILL FAMOUS TO THIS DAY.
I BEG OF YOU.
THE CHOUJI-YA WAS AN OLD BROTHEL THAT WAS CALLED THE KEIZETSU-ROU DURING THE TENMEI ERA, AND ONE OF THE FAMOUS BROTHELS THAT PAINTED THE HISTORY OF THE YOSHIWARA, MUCH LIKE THE OUGI-YA OR THE MATSUBA-YA.
I'LL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING, FROM HIYODORI-GOE NO SAKA-OTOSHI TO BUTSUDAN-GAESHI.
YESTERDAY, I LOST OUR MATCH TO YOUR KAWAZU-GAKE

'LADIES' SUMO' END

CHAPTER 14

第十四話

枕草子

THE PILLOW BOOK

WELL THEN, MASTER EITAROU.
I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR SKETCHES.
WHEN WE FINISH PRINTING THEM I WILL DELIVER THEM TO YOU.
SCRAPE...
I...
...
I BEG OF YOU!
IT'S HERE.
THERE'S NO MISTAKE!

...
OH, NO, NOT 'I BEG OF YOU.'
PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
I AM BUT AN INEXPERIENCED VASSAL OF THE IYO-MATSUYAMA PROVINCE, NAMED SAITOU JUUBEI.
PLEASE DO ME THE HONOR OF TEACHING ME UKIYO-E
UGH ...
"SNORE.
HOW DIRTY.
MASTER UTAMARU EITAROU
PLEASE TAKE ME ON AS A PUPIL!
WHAT IS THIS ?
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I WAS HAVING A NICE LATE SLEEP..
SKRITCH SKRITCH
CRUMPLE
RAISING YOUR VOICE ...
OGYAA
SLIDE
HUH?
A WOMAN ?
OR ARE YOU HIS WIFE?
WHERE IS MASTER EITAROU ?

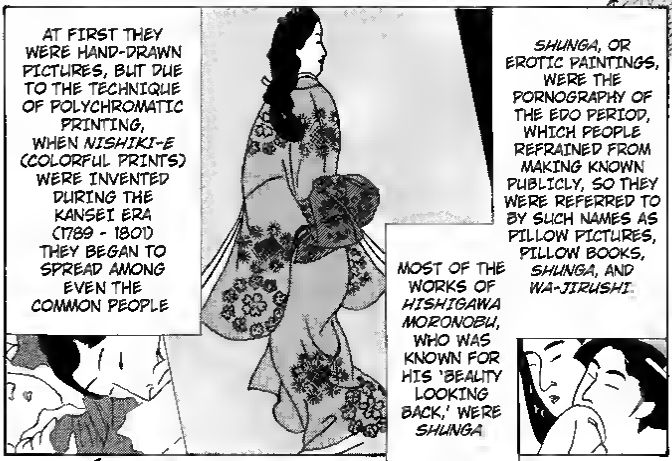
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?!
H, HUH, HUH UH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT EITAROU IS A GIRL.. I'M SHOCKED.
WHAT, GIRLS CAN'T DRAW PICTURES?
DON'T YOU KNOW OF MASTER KATSUSHIKA OUI, THE DAUGHTER OF THE ART-CRAZED OLD MAN KATSUSHIKA HOKUSAI?
IF YOU SAY THERE'S SOME OTHER UTAMARU EITAROU THEN HURRY UP AND BRING HIM HERE!
ANYWAY, BECAUSE OF YOUR INCREDIBLY POWERFUL STYLE I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MAN.
ONCE YOU KNEW I WAS A WOMAN YOU COMPLETELY LOST ANY IMPULSE TO BOW BEFORE ME RIGHT?
HURRY UP AND GO HOME.
I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY AT ALL!
I'M BOW...
IF I DID SOMETHING TO OFFEND, I APOLOGIZE. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE HONOR OF HAVING YOU LOOK AT MY PICTURES, PLEASE
SLIDE...
YOU'LL LOOK FOR ME?
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
...HMMM.
WELL, ALL IN ALL, IT'S RATHER GOOD
YOU'RE QUITE AMAZING FOR SOMEONE SO YOUNG
TH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

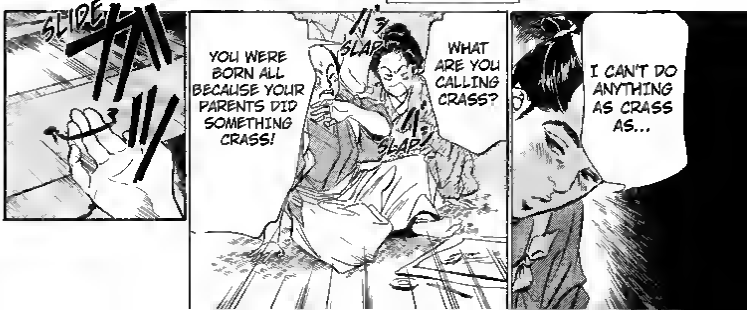
THIS HUMOROUS PICTURE IS FROM 'HOKUSAI MANGA' AND THE MONSTER PICTURE IS JUGEMU?
THIS PICTURE OF ACTORS IS AN IMITATION OF TOYOKUNI'S 'PICTURE OF THE ACTORS DANCE.'
AACHOO
THESE BEAUTIFUL WOMEN'S PICTURES ARE IMITATIONS OF KEISAI EISEN.
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...
THEY'RE GOOD, BUT THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN BECOME AN UKIYO-E MASTER WITH THESE...
CRUMPLE
HUH?
...AND DEVELOP YOUR OWN UNIQUE STYLE, OR ELSE.
YOU HAVE TO NOT BE A COPYCAT OF ANYONE.
THERE'S ALREADY TOO MANY ARTISTS OUT THERE WHO ARE SIMPLY GOOD AT DRAWING.
I DON'T WANT TO DRAW YAMATO-E THAT ADHERE TO STRICT TRADITION!
I WANT TO DRAW UKIYO-E LIKE YOU, MASTER EITARO!
YOU HAVE SKILL. WHY NOT JOIN THE KANOU SCHOOL AND TRAIN YOURSELF BETTER?
JUST THE FACT THAT YOU'RE SAYING 'I WANT TO DRAW UKIYO-E LIKE YOU, MASTER EITARO,' MEANS YOU HAVE NO HOPE.
HMPF.
IT'S MUCH EASIER TO FEED YOURSELF BY FIXING HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD PICTURE SCREENS

BY THE WAY, YOU.
YOU RAISE CHICKENS?
WITHIN EDO ALONE WE HAVE MANY DOZENS OF CHICKENS
DOES THAT MEAN SOMETHING...?
IF YOU WANT TO BE MY PUPIL, STARE AT THE CHICKENS UNTIL YOU'VE DRAWN 100 PICTURES TO BRING BACK TO ME
MASTER EITAROU!
AND IF IT SEEMS THAT YOU HAVE SOME MOTIVATION AND TALENT...
...THEN I WON'T MAKE YOU MY PUPIL, BUT I WILL TEACH YOU AT LEAST HOW TO USE A BRUSH
SEVERAL DAYS LATER
HOW THE HELL MANY DID YOU DRAW?
AT THE BEGINNING, I THOUGHT THE CHICKENS WERE BORING ...BUT. .
THE MORE I DREW, THE MORE I COULD SEE THEIR INCONSISTENCIES AND CHANGING MOVEMENTS AND BECAME ENTHRALLED BY HOW FASCINATING THEY WERE.
AND WITH THAT YOU STARTED DRAWING AND DREW ALL THESE?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU
THUMP

BOW
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I'LL TEACH YOU IF YOU COME HERE, BUT JUST ONCE EVERY FIVE DAYS.
HALF A YEAR LATER...
IT JUST SOMEHOW SEEMS THE WOMEN IN YOUR PAINTINGS HAVE NO EROTICISM.
EROTI-CISM ...?
THEY'RE SKILLED AND ACCURATE, BUT THEY SEEM LIKE DOLLS.
HUH ...

I'VE HEARD THAT THE SAMURAI FAMILIES DISCREETLY USE THEM AS PART OF BRIDE'S DOWRY
TRY DRAWING ONE
A.. PILLOW BOOK, IS IT?
BY THAT YOU MEAN A WA-JIRUSHI, OR IN SHORT, SHUNGA?
BA-BUMP
THAT'S IT, JUUBEI!
TRY DRAWING A PILLOW BOOK.


AT FIRST THEY WERE HAND-DRAWN PICTURES, BUT DUE TO THE TECHNIQUE OF POLYCHROMATIC PRINTING, WHEN NISHIKI-E (COLORFUL PRINTS) WERE INVENTED DURING THE KANSEI ERA (1789 - 1801) THEY BEGAN TO SPREAD AMONG EVEN THE COMMON PEOPLE
SHUNGA, OR EROTIC PAINTINGS, WERE THE PORNOGRAPHY OF THE EDO PERIOD, WHICH PEOPLE REFRAINED FROM MAKING KNOWN PUBLICLY, SO THEY WERE REFERRED TO BY SUCH NAMES AS PILLOW PICTURES, PILLOW BOOKS, SHUNGA, AND WA-JIRUSHI.
MOST OF THE WORKS OF HISHIGAWA MORONOBU, WHO WAS KNOWN FOR HIS 'BEALITY LOOKING BACK,' WERE SHUNGA


SLIDE
YOU WERE BORN ALL BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS DID SOMETHING CRASS!
SLAP!
WHAT ARE YOU CALLING CRASS?
SLAP!
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING AS CRASS AS...

IF YOU DON'T LIKE CRASSNESS, THEN STOP CALLING THE WOMAN WHO DRAWS THESE KINDS OF PICTURES YOUR MASTER.
THUMP
LOOK. THIS KUNIYOSHI IS USING TWELVE WHOLE COLORS.
TWELVE COLORS —?!
NORMALLY IT'S FOUR OR FIVE COLORS AT THE MOST...
THE VERY BEST PRINTERS EVEN USE LIBERAL AMOUNTS OF THINGS LIKE SILVER AND GOLD PAINT TO PRINT.
I—IT REALLY IS AMAZING!
IT'S AMAZING, RIGHT?
EVEN IN THE SEXUALLY RELAXED EDO PERIOD, SHUNGA COULD NOT BE OPENLY PRINTED.
MUCH LIKE UNDERGROUND BOOKS NOWADAYS, THEY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRINT HUGE NUMBERS, BUT THE CONTENTS WERE GORGEOUS AND INCREDIBLE

FAMOUS UKIYO-E PRINTERS MOSTLY BEGAN WITH SHUNGA, AND NOWADAYS THESE ARE WELL-REGARD ED AROUND THE WORLD AS ART.
ANYWAY, EVEN WITH CONTEMPORARY UKIYO-E PRINTING SKILLS AS THEY ARE, IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT FIVE COLORS IS THE LIMIT, SO YOU REALIZE HOW INCREDIBLE THE ARTISANS AT THE TIME WERE.

YOUNG MEN WHO DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WOMEN ASIDE...
THE PILLOW BOOK ISN'T JUST ABOUT DRAWING NAKED WOMEN.
OKAY?

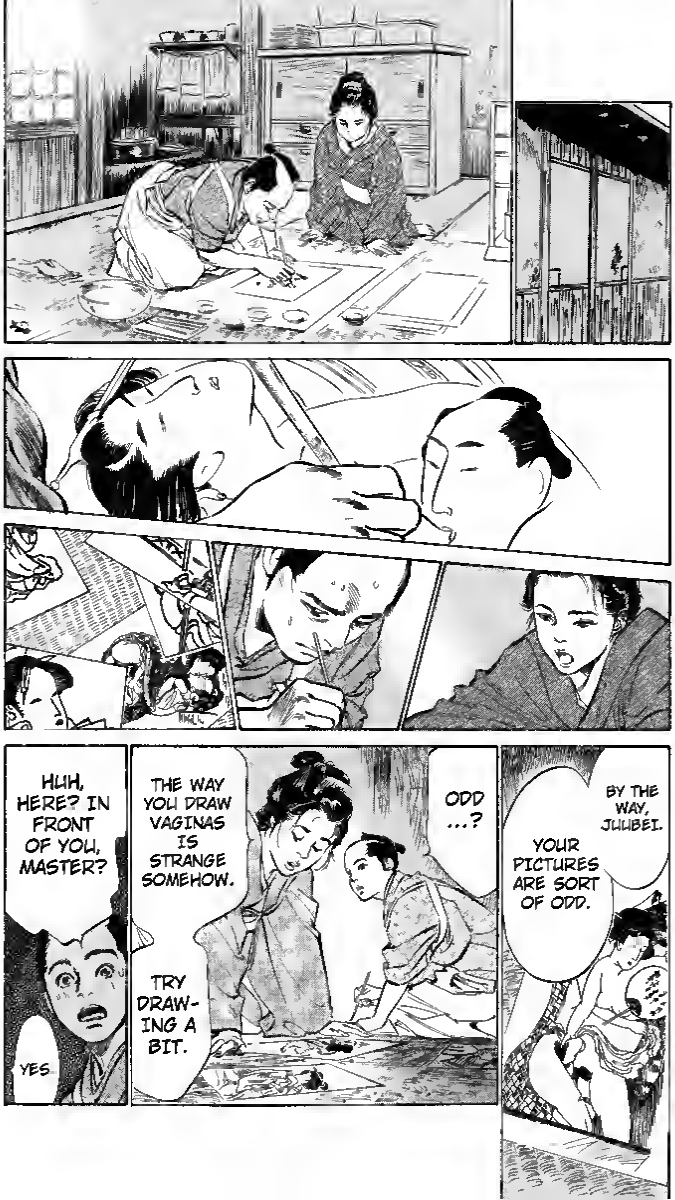
W... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
...THERE ARE NUMBERLESS EXPERIENCED MEN WHO WILL PAY GOOD MONEY FOR PILLOW BOOKS.
LOOK, LOOK MAKE SURE TO GET A GOOD LOOK AT MY PUSSY! ..ONLY THAT ALONE WON'T DO.
JUST THAT, AND EXPERIENCED MEN WON'T EVEN GET HARD

BA-BUMP
TH, THAT'S TRUE ...
MEN WANT TO LOOK BECAUSE YOU HIDE IT AS THOUGH SHY, LIKE THIS.
...AND THERE ARE PICTURES WHERE A BARELY SEEN CALF SEEMS SO INCREDIBLY EROTIC IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN
THERE ARE PICTURES WITH WOMEN WITH LEGS WIDE OPEN AND PUSSY SHOWING THAT AREN'T EROTIC AT ALL...
...JUST BECAUSE YOU TAKE CLOTHES OFF.
I SEE! THAT'S RIGHT!
... EROTICISM ISN'T SOMETHING THAT COMES OUT
OF COURSE, FLASHY, OBVIOUS EXPRESSION IS SOMETIMES NECESSARY TOO
MIKAMI-YA, WHO WAS CONSIDERED THE SECOND COMING OF THE FAMOUS PRINTER TSUTA-YA JUUZABUROU, DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THESE POINTS TO ENTICE HIS CUSTOMERS.
YOU UNDERSTAND? THAT'S THE MISUNDERSTANDING THAT CAUSED THE PRINTER MIKAMI-YA SHINICHIROU TO HAVE TO FINALLY CLOSE HIS SHOP

BUT THERE HAS TO BE THE 'SOMETHING LEFT UNSAID' AS EXPRESSED BY MATSUO BASHOU
OR NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF UKIYO-E OR SHUNGA YOU MAKE, THEY'LL SOON BE GOTTEN SICK OF AND DISCARDED
SOME-THING ...
..LEFT UNSAID
BOW
MASTER, THANK YOU!
W, WHY AGAIN ?
FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT TEACHING TO BE HANDED DOWN TO AN INEXPERIENCED PERSON SUCH AS MYSELF...
IT'S NOT SUCH AN IMPORTANT DISCUSSION.
I THINK I WANT TO SERIOUSLY TACKLE A PILLOW BOOK.
COUGH COUGH COUGH
COULD YOU PLEASE BE MY MODEL?
MASTER.
I WANT TO TRY DRAWING FROM LIFE THE KINDS OF FIGURES THAT EXCITE A MAN'S PASSIONS
BUT FOR THAT ...
UMM.
WHAT'S WRONG ?
SO, UM ...
...GIVE ME A BREAK. WHAT IS MY PUPIL SAYING!?
SO... NO?

THANK YOU.
BUT IN RETURN I'LL HAVE YOU CLEAN MY ROOM AND COOK EVERY DAY.
FINE, I UNDER-STAND!

ALREADY THAT MUCH? I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST AN HOUR.
FOUR HOURS HAVE ALREADY PASSED. PLEASE GIVE ME A BREAK ALREADY.
WHAM
HUFF
BUT BECAUSE OF YOU, MASTER, I THINK I CAN DRAW SOME GOOD PICTURES
I'LL FINISH THE REST AT HOME
NO WAY ARE YOU GOING HOME AND SKETCHING AFTER THIS
OF COURSE
I WANT TO COME BACK AND FINISH AS SOON AS I POSSIBLY CAN.
OH, THAT DRAWING IDIOT.
BUT... IF HE LOVES DRAWING THAT MUCH, HE JUST MIGHT BECOME SOMETHING.


BY THE WAY, JUUBEI.
YOUR PICTURES ARE SORT OF ODD.
ODD ...?
THE WAY YOU DRAW VAGINAS IS STRANGE SOMEHOW.
TRY DRAW-ING A BIT.
HUH, HERE? IN FRONT OF YOU, MASTER?
YES.

IF THAT'S IT, THEN YOU WANT TO DRAW IT WHILE LOOKING AT MINE?
HA HA HA
YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE EMBARRASSED, AREN'T YOU?
N, N, N, N, N, N, NN...
TRY DRAWING FROM STRAIGHT AHEAD, WIDE OPEN.
NO THANK YOU!
WHAT'S THAT, YOU WANT TO SEE THE HAIR TOO?
HOKUSAI'S PICTURES ARE ALL FROM THE SIDE, TOO, SO WHEN IT COMES TO DRAWING FROM STRAIGHT ON... I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...? I'VE NEVER REALLY PROPERLY SEEN A GIRL DOWN THERE BEFORE.
WHILE REMEMBERING MASTER BITAROU'S VAGINA...
I HAVE, I HAVE, I HAVE!
OH!
DO YOUR BEST...
... JUUBEI!

I'VE DONE IT!
W... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY MAEDARE?
GULP
THE RATHER THIN HAIR, THE MAEDARE, AND EVEN THE PLACEMENT OF THE MOLE...
I'VE SEEN THIS SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
YOU'VE DRAWN IT RATHER DETAILED, HAVEN'T YOU?
GRIN
U, UH... I DIDN'T KNOW THAT AT ALL.
THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL IT WHEN THE THICK CLITORIS STICKS OUT OF THE CRACK THERE.
W, W, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WANT TO TRY IT OUT AND SEE IF IT REALLY IS HIGHLY PRIZED?
BLUSH!!
MANY WOMEN MIGHT BE EMBARRASSED BY THIS, BUT CONNOISSEURS REVERE THIS AS A HIGHLY PRIZED SHAPE FOR A VAGINA

WHOOSH
I'VE NEVER LOOKED AT YOU LIKE THAT, MASTER ...
STOP YOUR TEASING!
MY, MY. YOU'RE ALREADY SO HARD.
IT'S UNCOUTH TO PLAY DUMB.
YOU SAY YOU HAVEN'T? THAT'S RUDE TO SAY TO A WOMAN, IN AND OF ITSELF.
AH, NOO.. UM...

GULP
YOU DON'T KNOW YET, DO YOU...?
THE TASTE OF A WOMAN.

I SAID I'D GO OUT OF MY WAY TO TEACH YOU, BUT YOU'RE CHICKENING OUT, AREN'T YOU?
OR ELSE YOU'RE DISSATISFIED WITH SHARING YOUR FIRST TIME WITH AN OLD LADY LIKE ME?
T, THAT ...
I'M NOT DISSATISFIED, NOT IN THE LEAST!
I MEAN, EVEN THOUGH I SHOWED YOU SUCH ENTICING POSES...
...YOU WERE ONLY INTERESTED IN SKETCHING, WEREN'T YOU?
NO, THAT'S ... I WAS JUST CAUGHT UP IN DRAWING AND...

I WAS TRULY WORRIED THAT I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO CHARM AS A WOMAN.
PLEASE, JUUBEI.
M, MASTER ...
SO IF YOU'RE NO GOOD WITH AGGRESSIVE WOMEN, HOW ABOUT THIS?
BE... GENTLE

GRAB
MASTER!
DON'T CALL ME THAT.
CALL ME OEI...
YES...
OEI, YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
ANH.
TUG

PLEASE SHOW ME WITHOUT BEING EMBAR-RASSED
OEI, PLEASE MOVE YOUR HANDS.
WHOOSH
YOUR SPECIAL PLACE DOWN THERE
I'M EMBAR-RASSED.
AAHH.
OEI, YOUR PUSSY IS OVER-FLOWING WITH HONEY...
DON'T SAY IT... PLEASE.
AHH NO, THAT'S EMBAR-RASSING.
SHLP
NH.

N... NO.
MORE
PLEASE SHOW ME MORE.
SHLP
SHLP
AAH!
OEI, RIGHT HERE IS OK?
HEY, IS IT HERE ?
AAHN... IT'S NOT RIGHT TO ASK THAT OF A WOMAN.
GLIDE...!
WAH.
AH...
NH.

UUH.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
PUSH
PUSH
PUSH
AAAHH
...
TWWITCHH!
YOU TOO, MASTER
YOU'RE TOO GOOD AT PLAYING THE NAIVE GIRL.
YOU TAKE THINGS OUT OF CONTROL.

OH, IT SEEMS THAT TOUJUUROU HEISAI HAS A NEW PICTURE OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN OUT.
LET'S GET ONE.
SHOW ME TOO.
HE'S AN UP-AND-COMING *UKIYO-E* MASTER WHO IS HIGHLY REGARDED FOR HIS FAINTLY EROTIC PICTURES OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN.
WHO IS THAT TOU-JUUROU?
MASTER ... NO.
MOTHER, WAIT JUST A SECOND!
LOOK, FATHER!
ISN'T IT? HIS HAS SOME RATHER GOOD ACTOR PORTRAITS TOO
THIS IS RATHER AMAZING.
WE'VE GOT TO FINISH OUR SHOPPING QUICKLY.

'THE PILLOW BOOK' END

CHAPTER

第十五話

15

海狗腎

KAIKUJIN

女湯
OH, SHE'S A PRETTY WOMAN.
NO WAY!
NOW THAT YOU'VE SAID THAT, IT WOULDN'T BE STRANGE IF SHE WERE FIFTY AT ALL.
HAW HAW
WHAT'S SHE, ABOUT THIRTY OR SO, ATSUSABUROU?
NO, KANTAROU THAT'S A SHAMISEN MASTER FROM SHINCHOU.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, UZUMIKO?
HMM, ALL IN ALL, MIGHT SHE NOT BE AROUND FOURTY, I WONDER?
THEY SAY THAT ALL IN ALL YOUR FIRST TIME SHOULD BE WITH SOMEONE OLDER LIKE THAT.

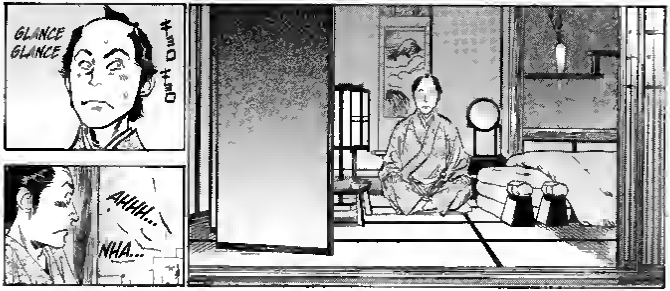
I DON'T WANT HER TO BE TOO OLD.
I LIKE YOUNG, NAIVE GIRLS, AFTER ALL.
THAT PAINTING MASTER IN THE BACK ALLEY, YOU KNOW, WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
YOU MEAN SAITOU TAKAOZAN? THE ONE DRAWING THE ILLUSTRATIONS FOR THE KIBYOUSHI BOOK 'DOKURO-GAOKA NO JUUZOU'...
WHAT ABOUT HIM?
WELL ACCORDING TO HIM, WOMEN DON'T REALLY COME INTO THEIR FULL RIPENESS UNTIL AFTER FORTY.
I WONDER IF THAT'S TRUE
PROBABLY IS, RIGHT?
SO IN THE END...
...WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO, HUH...?
TO YOSHIWARA!
YOU THREE LITTLE BRATS SECRETLY TALKING ABOUT BUYING PROSTITUTES, HMM...?
BY GO, YOU MEAN...
THERE...
IT'S FINE! AFTER ALL, I'VE BEEN SAVING AS MUCH CHANGE AS I CAN, AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO GO TO AT LEAST AN AVERAGE LEVEL BROTHEL.
THAT'S ADMIR-ABLE

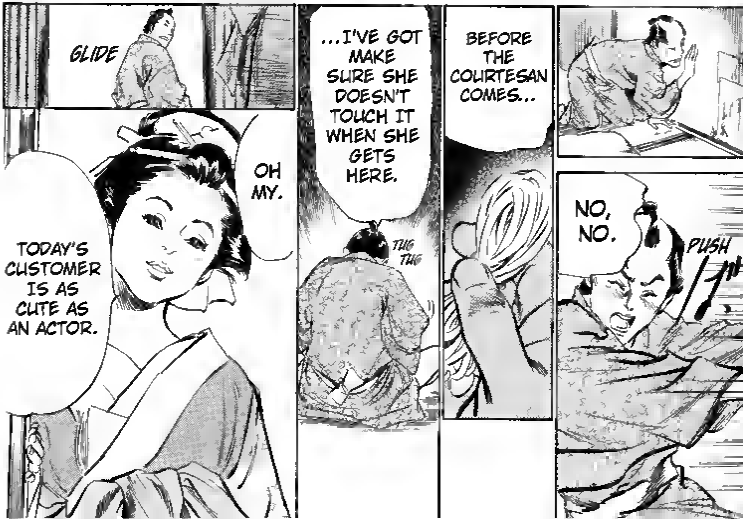
...A BURDEN?
...BUT YOU KNOW, THE FIRST TIME FOR A MAN...
IS REALLY A BURDEN
HE WAS SAYING STUFF LIKE .. THAT DURING A MAN'S FIRST TIME, IF YOU'RE TOO EAGER, SOMETIMES YOUR YOU-KNOW-WHAT MIGHT NOT GET HARD AT ALL
NAH, I MEAN... WITH MY FATHER BEING LIKE THAT...
SORRY! SORRY I'M LATE
BY 'YOU TOO,' ... ATSU-SABUROU, YOU MEAN ?
WHAT, YOU TOO?
SO JUST IN CASE, I WENT AND GOT A LITTLE MEDICINE.
WHAT IS THAT ?
HEHEHE... I BROUGHT THIS WITH ME.
YOU'RE SLOW, KANTAROU! WHAT WERE YOU DOING?

TEEHEE
YOU PUT THIS AROUND YOURSELF AND AS MUCH OF IT AS YOU WRAP AROUND, THAT'S HOW MUCH THICKER YOUR YOU-KNOW-WHAT BECOMES
THIS IS A HIGO-ZUIKI.
HIGO-ZUIKI?
AFTER ALL, ATSUSABUROU MIGHT BE ATTRACTIVE BUT HIS YOU-KNOW-WHAT IS SMALL.
SHUT UP, BOTH OF YOU!
COMPARED TO THAT, MINE IS AMAZING!
...HM?
COLD MEDI-CINE?
THIS ..
IS KAIKUJIN
KAI. KU. ?
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?
IT'S A POWDER MADE FROM THE DRIED BALLS OF THE FUR SEAL, A RARE CREATURE THAT APPEARS IN THE SEAS OF MATSUMAE PROVINCE, IN THE NORTHERN LANDS.
OH, UZUHIKO, YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR STUFF.
IF YOU TAKE THIS, YOU'LL GAIN UNRIVALED SEXUAL POWER
AND GO SIX TIMES WITHOUT EVEN PULLING OUT.
IT'S RUMORED THAT YOU COULD ACHIEVE THE FAMOUS NIKAROKU*.
* SLANG FOR SIX TIMES WITHOUT PULLING OUT
ACTUALLY, MY GRANDFATHER IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT HERBAL MEDICINES.

ACTUALLY ... I GOT SOMETHING AS WELL
KANTAROU, YOUR GRANDFATHER SEEMED SO SERIOUS, BUT AT HEART HE'S A PERVERT
IT SEEMS HE DISCREETLY OBTAINED IT...
I TRIED MAKING ONE OF THESE?
WHAT'S THAT SHEATH? IT LOOKS LIKE A FISH'S BONES...
HA HA.
WELL THEN IT'S NATURAL FOR HIS GRANDSON TO BE A PERVERT TOO, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT. I SAW AN ILLUSTRATION IN A BOOK AND COPIED IT...
YOU MADE IT YOURSELF ?
IT'S A DILDO! WITH THIS, EVEN IF I CAN'T GET IT UP, I CAN STILL PUT IT IN.
OFF TO YOSHIWARA!
WELL THEN ...
YOU SECRET LECHER!
HAW HAW

SO THIS IS THE FAMOUS 'LOOKING BACK WILLOW,' HUH...?
ON PARTING THE MORNING AFTER...
...I WANT TO LOOK BACK AT THE YOSHIWARA FROM HERE...
... AND LET OUT A SIGH
WHAT'S WRONG?
NO, I DON'T KNOW...
YOU'RE TREMBLING!
I'M JUST TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT! YOU'RE THE ONE WHOSE VOICE IS CRACKING!
I, LET'S GO!
T, THAT'S NOT TRUE!


GLANCE GLANCE
OSHI OSHI
AHHH...
NHA...


GLIDE
OH MY.
TODAY'S CUSTOMER IS AS CUTE AS AN ACTOR.
...I'VE GOT MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T TOUCH IT WHEN SHE GETS HERE.
TUG TUG
BEFORE THE COURTESAN COMES...
NO, NO.
PUSH

IF YOU CALM DOWN AND DO IT, YOU'LL BE FINE ...
CALM DOWN.
NOT AS CUTE AS ROKUSUKE, THOUGH
KISS
AAH.
AH!
FWOOSH
NNH
SHLP

SHE'S SO WET... THIS IS HOW WOMEN ARE?
WOW!
AAHH.
PUSH
PUSH
AAAAHHNN!
HEHE. HOW IS IT...?
THUD
THUD
THUD
IT'S THICK. IT'S SO THICK.
I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO BREAK.
THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE ...
...WHO ARE THIS THICK.
TWINGE
HUFF HUFF

W, WHAT ON EARTH IS WRONG?
BAM
OWOWO WOWOW OWWWW!
A, AH, IT...
. IT HURTS FROM BEING SQUEEZED.
WHOOSH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING LIKE A NAIVE LITTLE GIRL FOR?!
AH, NO!
STOP!
HEY WHAT DID YOU DO? SHOW ME.
YOU DIDN'T WARM IT UP WITH HOT WATER TO SOFTEN IT BEFORE USING IT, DID YOU?
HEH
YOU.
A HI, HIGO-ZUIKI?
TWITCH
TWITCH
HUH? I HAVE TO DO THAT?
IT SOAKED UP MY JUICES AND CONTRACTED, HUH?
AHAHAHAHAHAHA

HEY! WHAT KIND OF THINGS ARE YOU USING!
WHACK!
NO... THAT IS.. I COME TOO QUICKLY AND HAVE A HARD TIME GETTING HARD, SO...
EVEN SO, HOW COULD YOU JUST PUT ON A DILDO LIKE THAT SECRETLY!
BECAUSE OF YOU, IT'S STUCK INSIDE AND WON'T COME OUT!
AH, I'M SORRY.
THEN I'LL GET IT OUT...
YOU... IDIOT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY GOODS?
SMACK
YOU COMPLETE PERVERT
I, I'M SORRY!

IT REALLY DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'S GOING TO GET HARD..
THIS IS TERRIBLE...
I WONDER IF THAT MEDICINE WAS ALL JUST A LIE AFTER ALL?
IF I KEEP BEING UNABLE TO GET IT UP, WHAT A JOKE THIS WILL BE.
HEY, PLEASE DON'T TEASE ME SO MUCH.
TWITCH
AH...
YEAH H...

T...
T, THERE ...
THERE IT IS!
WELL THEN ..
WELL THEN, SHALL I JUST HAVE YOU COOL ME DOWN WITH YOUR JUICES, COURTESAN?
OH MY, YOUR PASSIONS SEEM TO HAVE BECOME RATHER INFLAMED.
MY ENTRANCE IS EVEN HOTTER.
POKE
AK.
EEH
SLK
SLK
AH.
AH.

SHK
SHK
SHK
SHLK
AHH.
ANH.
NNHA.
AHHH, COURTESAN!
IF YOU GET SO INTENSE, I'LL...
UNH
UNH
EEHH'
HOW WAS THAT? ARE YOU SATISFIED?
YES, OF COURSE ...
UNN HH!
TWITCH

...
WHAT'S WRONG?
T, THAT IS TO SAY...
MY Y, YOU-KNOW-WHAT WON'T CALM DOWN AT ALL.
HMM. YOU'RE SO YOUNG.
AH... YES, WELL ...
TO BE HONEST, WE'RE LIMITED TO ONE TIME A CUSTOMER.
BUT YOU ...
...I LIKE YOUR NAIVE AIR.
SHL
SHL
UNH
THG
NIBBLE

SHLP
SHLP
YOUR TONGUE IS CLINGING WETLY TO ME, COURTESAN...
AAH ...
SHLP
AHH!
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
UNH!
SLIDE

HEEHEE .. HOW WAS THAT?
TWO TIMES IN A ROW SHOULD HAVE CALMED YOU DOWN...
I'M SHOCKED. HOW CAN YOU STILL BE SO LIVELY?!
I, I WONDER WHAT IT IS... HA HA..
SHLAP!
WHOOSH
WELL, AS LONG AS I'VE COME THIS FAR...
HA HA ...

I MIGHT AS WELL SEE YOU THROUGH.
BUT ...
...I'M NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENS, EVEN IF BLOOD OR POWDER SHOULD COME OUT
COURTESAN ...
THAT'S ...
UNH.
NH.
NH.
SHIP
NH.
AH.
OH.
SHIP
SHIP
EEH.
NNHA
AHHHH!
SHIP
UNH.
WAAHH.
SHIP

OH, ATSUSA-BUROU!
!
OHH!
O, OH YEAH!
EVEN WITHOUT MY HIGO-ZUIKI I HAD THE COURTESAN SHRIEKING
R... REALLY ?!
HOW'D IT ALL GO?
HAVING YOUR DICK'S BLOOD CUT OFF BY A HIGO-ZUIKI IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!
AH
TWITCH!!
THAT'S TRUE, I WAS SHRIEKING AND CRYING WITH LAUGHTER
HE HE HE HE HE ...
HEH!
YEAH, I DIDN'T WARM THE HIGO-ZUIKI BEFOREHAND WITH HOT WATER SO IT ABSORBED HER JUICES AND THE BAND SHRUNK AND IT TIGHTENED ON ME!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT, YOU BASTARD ?!
ATSUSA-BUROU, YOU ..
HUH? YOUR BLOOD WAS CUT OFF...?

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?! HOW'D YOU DO THEN?
I, I...
I HAD HER SHRIEKING EVEN WITHOUT USING THE DILDO.
REALLY?
WE DID IT FIVE TIMES WITHOUT PULLING OUT... NO, MAYBE IT WAS SIX?
CLOMP
OWW!!
I FINALLY GOT IT OUT! TAKE THIS AND LEAVE NOW!
I TOOK EXTRA MONEY AS COMPENSATION..
..SO PLEASE, NEVER COME BACK AGAIN
THE DILDO, INSIDE OF THE COURTESAN...
YOU COULDN'T HAVE
SHUT UP, SHUT UPPP! IF YOU GET IT THEN DON'T ASK ME ABOUT IT!
WELL NOW WE *HAVE* TO FIND OUT ABOUT HOW KANTAROU DID

HEY, KANTAROU!
THE SUN'S BEEN UP FOR A WHILE NOW!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO SLEEP? WE'RE GOING HOME NOW!
LOOK, LOOK, MR KANTAROU
YOUR FRIENDS ARE HERE FOR YOU.
...HEY WHY THE HELL ARE THERE SO MANY TISSUES ...?
N, NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE DONE IT THIS MANY TIMES...?
YOU BASTARD! THE KAIKUJIN WAS THAT EFFECTIVE?!
THIS GUY JUST WOULD NOT FINISH, SO I WAS WITH HIM ALL NIGHT LONG...
I'M COMPLETELY WORN OUT.

OH,
I'M OUT OF SPERM ...
COMPLETELY OUT...
FEW WEAK...
UNGHH ?!

YOSHIWARA'S A BITTER EXPERIENCE FOR ME NOW!
THIS WAS TOO MUCH FOR US...
YOSHIWARA'S JUST A LAND OF MONSTERS AFTER ALL...

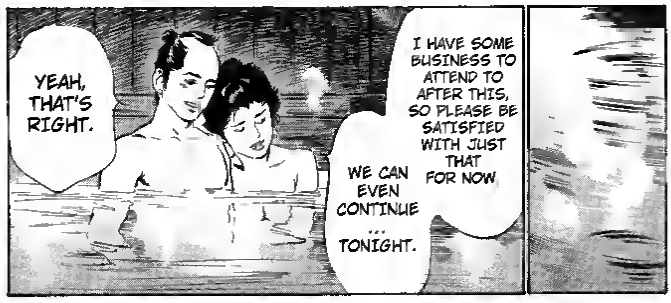
KAIKUJIN END

CHAPTER
第十六話
16
小便組
TEAM URINE

HATCHOUBORI
女
WOMEN
男
MEN
HE HE HE.
OH YOU, MR MATSUDA.
SO ENERGETIC THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING
TUG
TUG
ポ
DAZE
オ

I WONDER HOW MANY OF THE TOWN'S GIRLS WOULD CRY IF THEY KNEW THAT MATSUDA HIKOJIROU, THE POLICEMAN OF MINAMI-CHO KNOWN AS 'FAST-ROPE MATSUDA,' WHO COULD EVEN SCARE A CRYING CHILD QUIET, WAS DOING THIS KIND OF THING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE IT ENERGETIC, OSHIMA..
HOW MANY GIRLS HAVE YOU SAID THAT TO?
OH MY, THOSE WORDS..
...IT WOULD BE MOST SATIS-FACTORY. UNH UH, UNH...
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY GIRLS CRY, AS LONG AS YOU DON'T..
JUST YOU.
OSHIMA.. I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE ...
YOU CAN'T LET IT OUT IN THE BATHTUB.
STAND UP...
SHL
SHL
SHL
SPLASH!

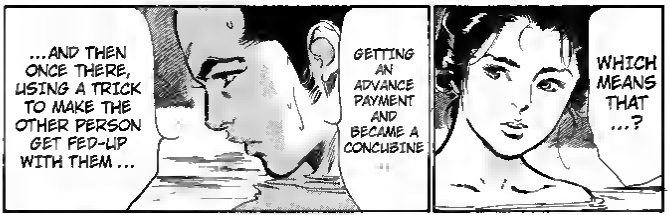
AH.
SHL
SHL
HHA.
SPLASH
HA.
UNH.
SHL
UNH
SHL
SHL
UNH
HANH
SPLISH
SPLISH
TWITCH
HA, UNHHH!

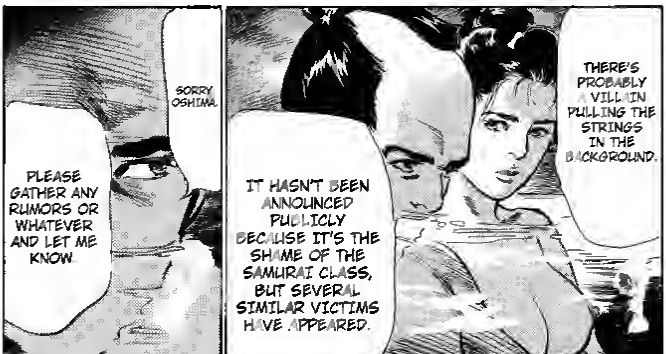

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO AFTER THIS, SO PLEASE BE SATISFIED WITH JUST THAT FOR NOW.
WE CAN EVEN CONTINUE ... TONIGHT.

WHAT IS IT? LIKE SHE WOULD LICK THE LANTERN OIL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT AND HER NECK WOULD STRETCH OUT?*
SHE'S NOT A MONSTER
IT SEEMS THAT A RETIREE FROM ONE OF THE BIG COMPANIES TOOK A YOUNG WOMAN AS A CONCUBINE
THIS CONCUBINE SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A STRANGE HABIT...
BY THE WAY, MR. MATSUDA
I HEARD A STRANGE RUMOR LATELY.
STRANGE RUMOR?
..! YOU DON'T MEAN ...
BED WETTING?
YOU'RE MAKING ME THINK ABOUT IT, COME ON
WHAT'S 'THAT'?
BUT IT SEEMS THAT.. SHE DID ... THAT
SHE HAS TALENTS LIKE THOSE OF A YOSHIWARA HIGH COURTESAN ...
WELL THEN ...
...I WONDER IF THAT'S THE SAME WOMAN?
WELL, I HEARD IT WAS ONE OF THE CHIEF RETAINERS CURRENTLY IN AUDIENCE AT EDO.
I HEARD SOMETHING A LOT LIKE THAT FROM MR. NAKAMURA, THE POLICE OFFICER.
OH MY, HOW DID YOU KNOW?

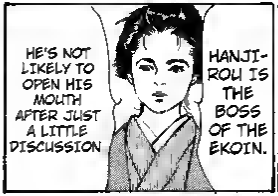
* REFERS TO A JAPANESE GHOST KNOWN AS A ROKURO-KUBI THAT HAD A NECK THAT STRETCHED OUT

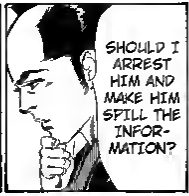
WHAT WAS THE WOMAN IN THE STORY YOU HEARD LIKE?
A SLENDER, SLIM-WAISTED BEAUTY, THEY SAID..
I HEARD SHE WAS HEAVY-SET.
BUT DUE TO THE INTRODUCTIONS OF AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY, SHE BECAME A CONCUBINE AND WITHIN ONE MONTH THOSE SYMPTOMS APPEARED AND SHE LEFT!


WHICH MEANS THAT ...?
GETTING AN ADVANCE PAYMENT AND BECAME A CONCUBINE
...AND THEN ONCE THERE, USING A TRICK TO MAKE THE OTHER PERSON GET FED-UP WITH THEM ...

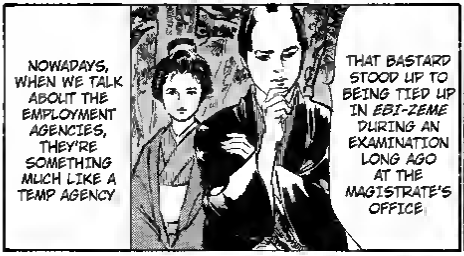

THERE'S PROBABLY A VILLAIN PULLING THE STRINGS IN THE BACKGROUND.
IT HASN'T BEEN ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY BECAUSE IT'S THE SHAME OF THE SAMURAI CLASS, BUT SEVERAL SIMILAR VICTIMS HAVE APPEARED.
SORRY, OSHIMA.
PLEASE GATHER ANY RUMORS OR WHATEVER AND LET ME KNOW.

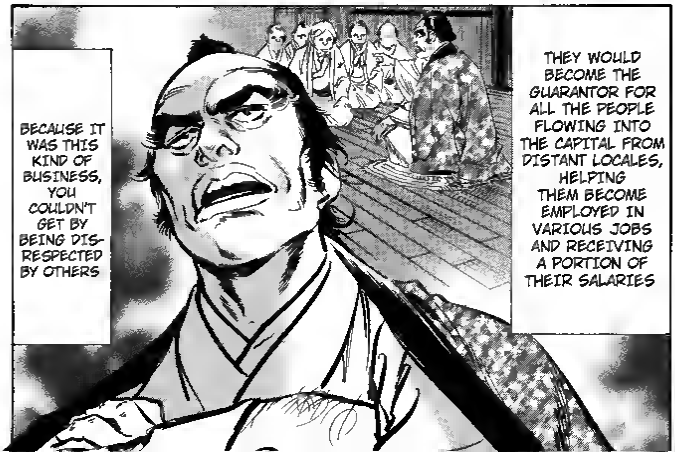
SEVERAL DAYS LATER...


HE'S NOT LIKELY TO OPEN HIS MOUTH AFTER JUST A LITTLE DISCUSSION
HANJI-ROU IS THE BOSS OF THE EKOIN.


SHOULD I ARREST HIM AND MAKE HIM SPILL THE INFOR-MATION?

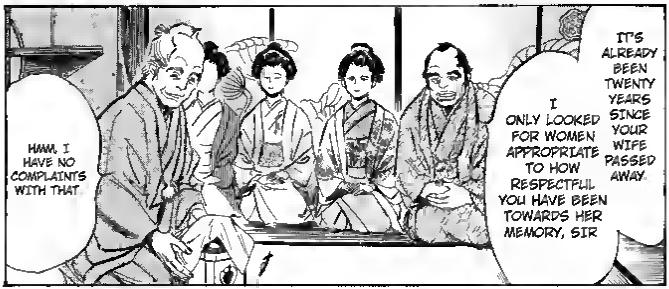
IT SEEMS THAT THE EKOIN EMPLOYMENT AGENT, 'HANJIROU OF THE AKAGOMA' IS DEFINITELY INVOLVED


NOWADAYS, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES, THEY'RE SOMETHING MUCH LIKE A TEMP AGENCY
THAT BASTARD STOOD UP TO BEING TIED UP IN EBI-ZEME DURING AN EXAMINATION LONG AGO AT THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE.


BECAUSE IT WAS THIS KIND OF BUSINESS, YOU COULDN'T GET BY BEING DIS-RESPECTED BY OTHERS
THEY WOULD BECOME THE GUARANTOR FOR ALL THE PEOPLE FLOWING INTO THE CAPITAL FROM DISTANT LOCALES, HELPING THEM BECOME EMPLOYED IN VARIOUS JOBS AND RECEIVING A PORTION OF THEIR SALARIES

IN THE KABUKI PLAY 'THE RENOWNED BANZUI CHOUBEI,' THE CHIVALROUS BANZUIIN CHOUBEI WAS ALSO WORKING AS AN EMPLOYMENT AGENT.
IT IS A VERY VIOLENT TORTURE WHERE YOU MAKE SOMEONE SIT WITH LEGS CROSSED, TIE BOTH HANDS TOGETHER BEHIND THE BACK, TIE THE LEGS UP TO THE NECK WITH ROPE, AND BEAT THE PERSON WITH THE BUTT OF A BROOM.
EBI-ZEME WAS INVENTED BY THE MAN FEARED AS 'DEMON KAGEYU,' NAKAYAMA KAGEYU, A MAN IN CHARGE OF CATCHING BANDITS AND ARSONISTS, AS A TORTURE METHOD TO DEFEAT UZURA GONBEI.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I HAVE TO CHANGE MY PLAN OF ATTACK.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN SHALL I TRY PLANTING A TRAP FOR HIM FROM THIS SIDE?
ACCORDING TO THE WORDS OF A CUSTOMER WHO CAME TO MY SISTER'S PUB, HANJIROU IS LOOKING FOR A NEW CLIENT.

I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU ARE INTRODUCING ME TO SUCH LOVELY LADIES
OH, MR. HANJIROU


HMM, I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS WITH THAT
I ONLY LOOKED FOR WOMEN APPROPRIATE TO HOW RESPECTFUL YOU HAVE BEEN TOWARDS HER MEMORY, SIR
IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWENTY YEARS SINCE YOUR WIFE PASSED AWAY.

I WOULD HAVE YOU PAY ENOUGH FOR THREE YEARS IN ADVANCE

AHH
HAA.
ANH
OH, OHHH...
WONDERFUL.
NH
AH
SHLK
ANH.
AAH.
SHLK
NHM
NHHM
HAHH
AH.

AH.
HHA.
AAH.
OHHH
AAHH, YES!
AAAHHHH.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

IT'S FINE.
LICK
THERE IS NO REASON FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU TO KEEP A CONCUBINE LIKE ME
I CAN'T TALK TOO LOUDLY ABOUT IT...
...BUT IN REALITY, I WAS ALSO AN INCURABLE BED-WETTER
HUH?
BUT WHEN I WAS UNDER THE CARE OF A CERTAIN DOCTOR, I WAS SOON CURED.
TODAY JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE DAY FOR HIS VISIT.
LET'S HAVE HIM LOOK AT YOU
SIR, DR. GENSHOU IS HERE FOR YOU.
AHH, GOOD TIMING. PASS HIM THROUGH HERE. TELL HIM THERE'S SOMEONE I DEFINITELY WANT HIM... TO FIX.
SLIDE
OH, SIR.
I HEARD YOU HAD SOMEONE YOU WANTED ME TO LOOK AT?

THE DOCTOR WILL FIX YOUR DISEASE WITH MOXA CAUTERY.
SMILE
SHIVER
WHAT ON EARTH COULD THIS DOCTOR DO FOR ME?
UM
ACTUALLY, THIS YOUNG WOMAN HAS THAT SAME DISEASE THAT ALSO TROUBLED ME SO
BY THAT DISEASE YOU MEAN SHE HAS TROUBLE CONTAINING HERSELF?
THEN, THAT'S A QUICK FIX
I DON'T WANT THE MOXA YOU USE TO SCAR MY SMOOTH SKIN...
IT'S ALRIGHT
THE MOXA I DO WON'T LEAVE ANY SCARS.
WOOSH
SLIDE
AHHHH.

POOOF
PLEASE ENDURE IT.
I, IT'S HOT!
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
IT'S THIS HEAT THAT WILL CURE YOUR BEDWETTING
UUNH

THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
WHAP
WHAP
REWWWW
GRAB
EEEEEK!
TUG

YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY
WHAM
THIS IS TO CURE YOUR BEDWETTING.
HAVE PATIENCE. WE'RE DOING THIS FOR YOU.
IT HURTS ME TO SEE THIS AS WELL
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
I, IT'S HOT...
AH!
TWANG
TWANG
TWANG
SPARE ME ALREADY!
AHHH!

EEEH.
UHN... EEH.
AAH... AAH...
GRAB
UNRAP
UHH.
WH, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH.
I DON'T WANT ANY MORE HEAT!
TAR GW

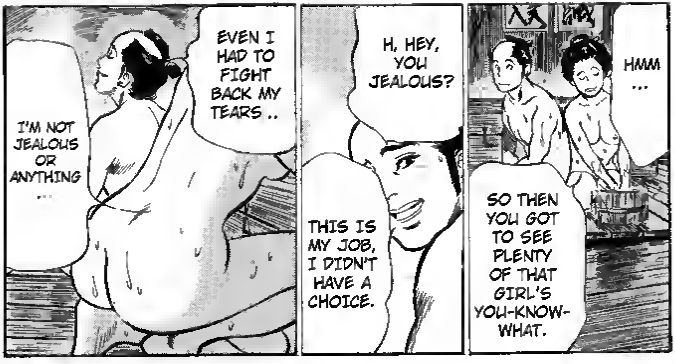
I... IT HURTS.
WHERE ON EARTH ARE YOU PLACING THE MOXA?!
WHAAAT ...?!
WE HAVE TO MAKE IT SO YOU CAN'T STRUGGLE, AS THIS SPOT IS HOTTER THAN ANY OTHER.
BE JUST A LITTLE PATIENT
GLAR
SPARE ME!
N, NOOO!
ANYTHING BUT THAT...!
I THINK IT'S OBVIOUS.
AROUND YOUR VAGINA, SO THAT YOU DON'T WET THE BED. IF WE PLACE TEN OF THEM, YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY BE CURED.
WHOOSH ぶうん
WHOOSH ぶうん
EEEK!

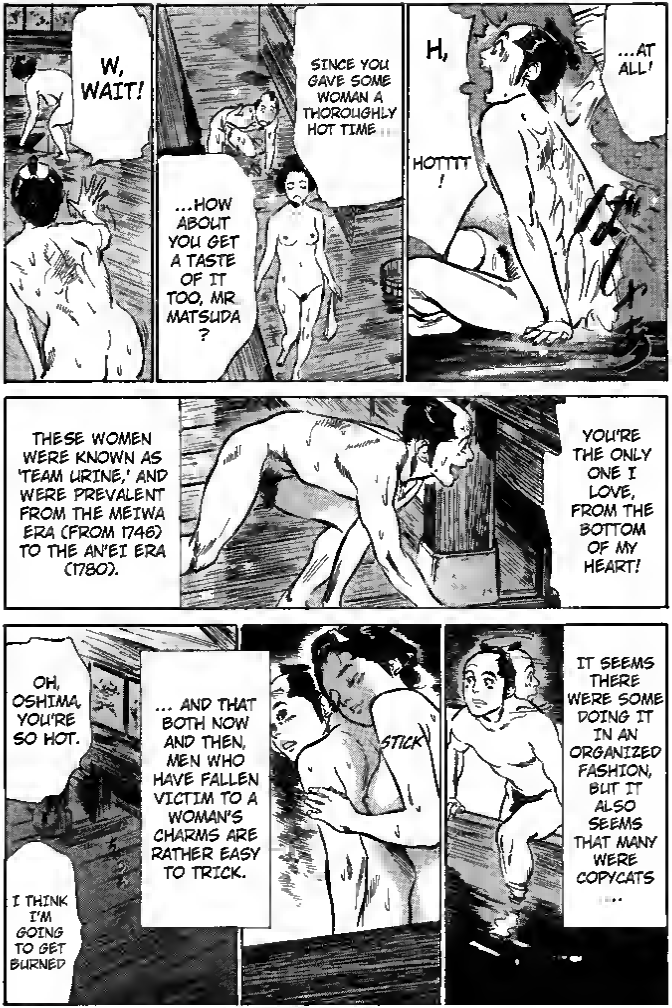
NOW, NOW, DON'T STRUGGLE.
IF YOU STRUGGLE, THE SPARK OF THE INCENSE MIGHT END UP TOUCHING YOU IN THE WRONG SPOT.
UHN... UHNNN, I DON'T EVEN WET MY BED...
I, I'LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
SO YOU'VE FINALLY DECIDED TO TALK.
Y, YOU'RE A DIRTY OFFICIAL?
A PURPLE-TASSLED ORNAMENTAL JUTTE?
YOU'VE HEARD THE NAME OFFICER QUICK-ROPE MATSUDA OF THE MINAMI-CHOU MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE, HAVEN'T YOU?
WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
YOU WERE MORE STUBBORN THAN I EXPECTED.

I'LL TELL YOU ANYTHING
N, NO, ANYTHING BUT THAT.
INSTEAD OF WHIPPING YOU A HUNDRED TIMES WE COULD PUT MOXA ON YOU A HUNDRED TIMES INSTEAD.
I'LL HAVE YOU TELL ME EVERYTHING!
WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS? WHERE'S YOUR HEADQUARTERS?
SO THEN THERE WERE TEN WOMEN WHO WERE EXACTLY THE SAME?
HMM.

THEY HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN PROSTITUTES OR FROM SAMURAI FAMILIES, AND SUCH..

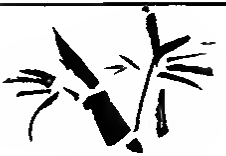
SLIDE
BEHAVE YOURSELF!


EVEN I HAD TO FIGHT BACK MY TEARS ..
I'M NOT JEALOUS OR ANYTHING ...
H, HEY, YOU JEALOUS?
THIS IS MY JOB, I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.
HMM ...
SO THEN YOU GOT TO SEE PLENTY OF THAT GIRL'S YOU-KNOW-WHAT.


W, WAIT!
SINCE YOU GAVE SOME WOMAN A THOROUGHLY HOT TIME...
...HOW ABOUT YOU GET A TASTE OF IT TOO, MR MATSUDA?
H, HOTTTT!
...AT ALL!
THESE WOMEN WERE KNOWN AS 'TEAM URINE,' AND WERE PREVALENT FROM THE MEIWA ERA (FROM 1746) TO THE AN'EI ERA (1780).
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I LOVE, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!
OH, OSHIMA, YOU'RE SO HOT.
I THINK I'M GOING TO GET BURNED
... AND THAT BOTH NOW AND THEN, MEN WHO HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO A WOMAN'S CHARMS ARE RATHER EASY TO TRICK.
STICK
IT SEEMS THERE WERE SOME DOING IT IN AN ORGANIZED FASHION, BUT IT ALSO SEEMS THAT MANY WERE COPYCATS...

'TEAM URINE' END

AFTERWORD.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PURCHASING 'AMOROUS WOMEN OF THE FLOATING WORLD' AT THIS TIME.

THANKS TO THAT, I WAS ABLE TO RELEASE TWO VOLUMES THIS TIME.

DID YOU ENJOY THE EROTIC CULTURE OF THE EDO PERIOD?

THIS TIME. AS I WAS DRAWING, I FELT LIKE I WANTED TO TRY GOING TO THIS TIME PERIOD. THE PLACE I'D LIKE TO GO THE MOST IS A BROTHEL! BUT WHAT IF NO ONE WOULD TAKE ME AS A CLIENT...

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO MISS CHINATSU TAKAMURA, WHO ALWAYS WROTE SUCH FUN SCENARIOS FOR ME, TO MY EDITOR, FOR ALWAYS GUIDING ME AS INDOLENT AS I MIGHT BE, AND TO EVERYONE WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE PUBLISHING.

MORE THAN ANYTHING, THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT THIS BOOK!

KAORU HAZUKI - 4/7/2009

八月薫
2009. 4. 7

THE 'SIX SHAKU GIANT WEASEL' (TRANSLATED HERE AS "GIANT BADGER") OFTEN RECOUNTED IN RAKUGO ACTUALLY EXISTED 'IT'S A FRESHLY CAUGHT GIANT WEASEL SIX SHAKU LONG FROM THE MOUNTAINS THAT'S DANGEROUS TO GET NEAR!' IS WHAT YOU WOULD HEAR FROM THE BARKER, AND THEN WHEN YOU WENT INTO THE SIDESHOW, THERE REALLY WOULD BE JUST A BIG BOARD INSIDE, AND THE GIANT WEASEL YOU EXPECTED WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN

'IT'S A GIANT ITACHI BECAUSE THEY JUST CUT DOWN A BIG BOARD FROM THE FOREST AND PUT BLOOD ON IT IF IT FALLS OVER, IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS,' IS THE EXPLANATION HOWEVER, THE COST TO SEE IT WAS THREE MON OR TEN MON, SOMETHING CHEAP, SO IT WAS CONSIDERED UNCOUTH TO GET ANGRY ABOUT IT IT SEEMED THERE WAS EVEN A PRANK WHERE PEOPLE WOULD FOOL THEIR FRIENDS, TELLING THEM THIS ONE OR THAT ONE WAS THE REAL THING, AND THEN LAUGH AT SEEING THEM COME OUT OF THE SIDESHOW

AND THEN IT WAS CONSIDERED COOL FOR THE PERSON WHO GOT TRICKED TO LAUGH ALONG WITH THEM EDOITES TRULY HATED BEING CALLED UNCOUTH, OR UNSTYLISH OTHER SIDESHOWS WOULD SAY THEY HAD CAUGHT A GIANT KAPPA AND WHEN YOU WENT INSIDE, THERE WAS A BIG RAINCOAT (AMA-GAPPA, THE WORD FOR RAINCOAT, IS SIMILAR TO KAPPA, THE MYTHICAL MONSTER) HANGING THERE, AND OTHER SUCH PUNS SEEMED TO BE COMMON

'SNAKE WOMAN' AND 'DO IT, BLOW IT,' AND OTHER SUCH SEXUAL SIDESHOWS WERE MUCH LIKE THE STRIP SHOWS OF TODAY, AND THERE WERE MANY SITUATIONS WHERE THE PERFORMERS WERE FORMER PROSTITUTES SHOWS LIKE 'SNAKE WOMAN' SEEMED TO CONTINUE LONG INTO THE 40TH YEAR OR SO (ABOUT 1965) OF THE POST WAR SHOWA PERIOD, STAYING AROUND FOR QUITE A WHILE

'DO IT, BLOW IT' HAD SOME ELEMENTS SIMILAR TO THE 'NO PANTIES CAFES' THAT WERE FAMOUS A WHILE BACK WHEN YOU THINK OF IT IN THIS WAY, EVEN THOUGH THESE ARE NEW AMUSEMENTS, IT WOULD SEEM THAT PEOPLE DO NOT REALLY CHANGE OVER MANY HUNDREDS OF YEARS AFTER ALL, MEN BECOME EXCITED WHEN THEY GET A BRIEF GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING HIDDEN

EVEN THOUGH THIS IS SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT, THINGS IN DIRECT PURSUIT OF PLEASURE AND THINGS LIKE 'DO IT, BLOW IT,' WHERE YOU DO SOMETHING IDIOTIC SERIOUSLY TO POKE FUN AT YOUR OWN PERVERTED INTERESTS, ARE QUALITATIVELY DIFFERENT, BECAUSE RATHER THAN ACTUAL ACTION, STIMULATING THE IMAGINATION ENGAGES THOSE WITH MORE DEVELOPED BRAINS

IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT CALL SUCH IDIOTIC THINGS NOBLE EXACTLY, IT COULD BE CONSIDERED MORE STYLISH IT WOULD SEEM THAT IN THEIR PURSUIT OF PLEASURE, MEN END UP REGRESSING TO A MORE CHILDISH STATE

LOOKING AT IT THIS WAY, MUCH LIKE THE 'NO-PANTIES CAFES' OF THE MODERN ERA, IN THE SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY OF JAPAN, THERE HAS LONG BEEN A STRAIN OF LIGHT HEARTED COMICALITY PRECISELY BECAUSE THIS TRADITION CONTINUES, THE SEX INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO BE VARIED, PROVIDING STRIP SHOWS, PEEKING BOOTHS AND THE LIKE, EVEN INTO THE MODERN ERA

THIS IS NOT LIMITED TO JAPAN, AND THE FACT THAT FROM THE START EAST ASIA HAS GENERALLY HAD CASUAL ATTITUDE TOWARD SEX IS LIKELY ONE REASON THE TRADITION OF CREEPING INTO A GIRL'S ROOM FOR SEX AT NIGHT WAS UNTHINKABLE FOR WESTERN SOCIETIES BOUND BY CHRISTIAN MORALITY THE MORALITY OF EDO PERIOD JAPAN WAS FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF WESTERN COUNTRIES

IN PERIOD PLAYS, THERE ARE OFTEN SCENES THAT TAKE PLACE AT ARCHERY RANGES. THIS ARCHERY WAS ORIGINALLY DONE WITH SMALL WILLOW BOWS MADE FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES, AND THE LENGTH WAS SAID TO BE ABOUT 85 CENTIMETERS. WITH THESE, THEY WOULD COMPETE TO SEE WHO COULD HIT THE MOST TARGETS, OR TARGETS HANGING FROM TORII GATES, PLACED ABOUT THIRTEEN TO FIFTEEN METERS AWAY.
THEY LOOKED LIKE THE SHOOTING RANGES OR DART BOARDS OF TODAY, BUT WORKING AT THE ARCHERY RANGE WERE THE YATORI-ONNA (ALSO KNOWN AS YABA ONNA), GIRLS OF YOUNG, MARRIAGEABLE AGE. THE MEN WEREN'T AIMING FOR TARGETS, THEY WERE AIMING FOR THE GIRLS. IN SHORT, THE ARCHERY RANGE WAS ONE OF THE SEX ENTERTAINMENTS ENJOYED WITHOUT DIRECTLY HAVING SEX WITH WOMEN. SO WHAT KIND OF SERVICES DID THEY HAVE THERE?

WHEN THE YATORI-ONNA WOULD GO GET THE ARROW THAT A CUSTOMER SHOT, THE SECOND SHE BENT DOWN YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO BRIEFLY GET A GLIMPSE OF HER CALVES OR HER UNDERGARMENTS. THE MEN WERE OVERJOYED BY THIS. ON THE DAYS THAT THEY GOT LUCKY ENOUGH TO SEE THE WOMEN'S THIGHS, THEY WERE IN HEAVEN. AFTER ALL, MEN ARE CHILDISH CREATURES WHO GET EXCITED WHEN THEY GET A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING THAT ISN'T INTENTIONALLY SHOWN.
HOWEVER, THERE WERE BAD PEOPLE AMONG THEM, WHO WOULD SHOOT ARROWS AT THE BEHINDS OF THE YATORI ONNA WHEN SHE WENT TO PICK UP THE ARROW. THIS IS MUCH LIKE THE DRUNKEN PATRON AT A CABARET CLUB WHO DISCREETLY STARTS TOUCHING WOMEN'S BEHINDS. SEEING THE YATORI ONNA BECOME FLUSTERED BECAME ONE TYPE OF AMUSEMENT FOR SOME OF THE CLIENTS.

BUT MOST CLIENTS JUST ENJOYED SPEAKING WITH THE YATORI-ONNA¬ AND WANTED TO TRY TO PICK HER UP IF THEY COULD. IN THAT WAY, TOO, THE ARCHERY RANGES WERE SIMILAR TO MODERN CABARET CLUBS. CABARET CLUBS ARE ALSO A PLACE TO ENJOY SPEAKING TO WOMEN, BUT THERE ARE FEW MEN WHO DON'T SECRETLY WISH IN SOME WAY THAT THEY COULD GET CLOSER TO THE WOMEN IF THEY HAD A CHANCE.
BECAUSE OF THAT, THERE ARE STORIES ABOUT TIMES WHEN THE GIRL WHO WAS A DRAW AT A PARTICULAR STORE RETIRED DUE TO MARRIAGE AND HER MOTHER HAD TO COME TAKE OVER AS THE YATORI ONNA, CAUSING THE CUSTOMERS TO STOP COMING. BECAUSE OF THIS WE STILL HAVE A SENRYUU¬ POEM TO THIS DAY THAT READS 'MOTHER TOOK OVER, THE ARCHERY RANGE'S CUSTOMERS LEFT TOO.' WE CAN TELL FROM THIS POEM THAT MUCH LIKE THE ARROW MISSES ITS MARK, CUSTOMERS WOULD ALSO SOON LEAVE THE ARCHERY RANGE.

HOWEVER, IN THE LATTER YEARS OF THE EDO PERIOD, PUBLIC MORALS STARTED TO BREAK DOWN, AND PLACES OTHER THAN THE OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED YOSHIWARA RED LIGHT DISTRICT, SMALLER AREAS WHERE PROSTITUTES GATHERED CALLED OKABASHO, WOULD FLOURISH. AS COMPETITION GOT STIFFER, THE ARCHERY RANGES, WHICH HAD FORMERLY RELIED ONLY ON GLIMPSES OF THE GIRLS, BEGAN TO DISCREETLY OFFER PROSTITUTION AS WELL. OF COURSE, THEY COULD NOT DO THIS IN THE OPEN, AND IF THEY WERE DISCOVERED, THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN PUNISHED. THIS IS SIMILAR TO HOW SOMETIMES STRIP CLUBS THAT OFFER PARTICULARLY LURID SHOWS TO GRAB MORE CUSTOMERS ARE OFTEN SEIZED BY THE POLICE, ISN'T IT? IN ORDER TO GET CUSTOMERS IN, THE SERVICES OFFERED BEGIN TO ESCALATE, AND IT FINALLY ENDED UP BREAKING SOME SORT OF RULE. IT SEEMS THAT EVEN THOUGH TIMES CHANGE, THE ACTIONS OF PEOPLE DON'T CHANGE VERY MUCH, AFTER ALL.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS IN WHICH THE MORALITIES OF THE EDO PERIOD AND TODAY DIFFER, BUT BECAUSE THE SHOGUNATE DID NOT LIKE DISORDER OR PUBLIC IMMORALITY, THEY WOULD ATTEMPT TO CRACK DOWN AND ENFORCE THE RULES WITH AN IRON FIST. SO THE SEX INDUSTRY WOULD LAY LOW FOR A WHILE, BUT EVENTUALLY IT WOULD BECOME MORE LURID, AND BE CRACKED DOWN ON AGAIN. AND THIS HISTORICAL PATTERN CONTINUED.

EDO WATER TRANSPORTATION AND PLAY

SELF-EMPLOYED PROSTITUTES WHO USED BOATS WERE CALLED 'BOAT DUMPLINGS' (FUNA-MANJUU.) IN GENERAL, SELF-EMPLOYED PROSTITUTES WERE COMPARABLE TO STREET-WALKERS, AND AS THEY USED BOATS, THEIR PRICES WOULD BE RATHER HIGH, BUT IT SEEMS THAT THEY DID QUITE WELL, POSSIBLY BECAUSE THE UNUSUAL SITUATION OF BEING ABLE TO USE A BOAT BECAME POPULAR. AT A TIME WHEN STREET WALKERS FEES WERE AROUND 24 MON, THESE FUNA-MANJUU ARE SAID TO HAVE COST 32 MON, A 30% INCREASE WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, FUNA-MANJUU IS LIKELY COMPARABLE TO TODAY'S CAR SEX. IN THIS CASE HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT A BOAT STOPPED ON THE BANKS, BUT A MOVING BOAT. OF COURSE, A CAPTAIN WAS NECESSARY TO MANEUVER THE BOAT. IT'S BELIEVED THAT IN GENERAL, THE HUSBAND OF THE FUNA-MANJUU WOULD DO THIS. THERE WERE ALSO MANY CASES WHERE THE HUSBAND OF A STREET-WALKER WOULD ACT AS A BODYGUARD.

I DO WONDER WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE WHO NAVIGATED BOATS WHILE WATCHING THEIR WIFE SELL SEX FROM THE SIDELINES. BUT THE RAKUGO PROGRAM 'ONAOSHI,' MADE FAMOUS BY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FIFTH GENERATION KOKON TEISHINSHOU, PORTRAYS AN IMPOVERISHED MAN WHO MAKES HIS WIFE BECOME A SELF-EMPLOYED PROSTITUTE, AND HE IS SHOWN BECOMING HER PIMP. IT SEEMS THAT THE EDO POPULACE WAS VERY STRONG-MINDED.
DURING THE MEIWA YEARS, (1764-1772) FUNA-MANJUU STARTED TO BE CALLED OCHIYO, AND THE BOATS THEY RODE OCHIYO BUNE. A HEAVY SET, PALE FUNA-MANJUU NAMED CHIYO BECAME WELL REGARDED, AND BECAUSE OF THIS, HER NAME BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH THE PRACTICE. ORIGINALLY, MANY FUNA-MANJUU WERE WOMEN WHO BECAME UNABLE TO STAND BECAUSE OF SYPHILIS, AND THE RISK ON THE PART OF THEIR CUSTOMERS WAS ALSO GREAT.

BEFORE TOKUGAWA IEYASU ENTERED THE EDO AREA, IT WAS THE MARSH ZONE OF FILLED WITH REEDS. AS THE OCEAN RAN CLOSE TO EDO CASTLE, THE MOUNTAIN WAS LEVELED, AND THE MARSH AND OCEAN FILLED IN ON A LARGE SCALE, TO MAKE THE METROPOLITAN AREA OF TODAY. BECAUSE OF THIS, AREA NAMES LIKE 'SHIODOME' AND 'TSUKIJI' CONTINUE TO EXIST FROM WHEN THAT AREA WAS STILL OCEAN.
IN PERIOD PLAYS, IT'S NORMAL FOR COMMONERS TO BE SEEN RIDING AROUND IN PALANQUINS, BUT IN THE REAL TOWN OF EDO, DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU NEEDED TO GO, BOATS WERE USED FAR MORE OFTEN. IN EDO, SMALL MOATS WERE DUG TO EACH AREA, AND THE BOAT TRANSPORT SYSTEM WAS EXTREMELY DEVELOPED. THIS IS NATURAL, BECAUSE IF THE CENTERS OF COMMERCE DID NOT HAVE DEVELOPED WATER TRANSPORT SYSTEMS, THIS SORT OF GROWTH WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED.

THE BOATS USED IN EDO RANGED FROM HUGE SHIPPING BOATS AND REGULARLY SCHEDULED FERRIES, TO SKIFFS BUILT FOR SPEED, ROOFED BOATS THAT WERE FINE IN THE RAIN AND BOATS MADE TO AVOID THE SUN. THERE REALLY WERE MANY TYPES OF BOATS. THE SKIFFS HAD A LONG SHAPE THAT WAS EASILY MANEUVERED, AND WERE FAST. BECAUSE OF THAT, MEN ABOUT TOWN GOING TO YOSHIWARA WOULD OFTEN USE THEM. HOWEVER, BECAUSE NATURALLY BOATS ARE NARROW, THEY WERE EASILY ROCKED AND UNSTABLE. IF YOU WERE UNUSED TO IT, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO STAND, SO IT WAS SAID THAT 'PEEING OFF A SKIFF WOULD COST 1000 RYO.' THIS IS BECAUSE IN ORDER TO BE SO USED TO IT YOU COULD EASILY PEE OFF AN UNSTABLE SKIFF YOU WOULD HAVE TO SPEND ABOUT 1000 RYO GOING BACK AND FORTH TO THE YOSHIWARA OR PLAYING AROUND ON THE BOATS.

TO GO BY SKIFF TO YOSHIWARA, IN THE CASE OF TRAVELING 30 BLOCKS (ABOUT 3,300 METERS,) FROM YANAGI BASHI, WHERE THE SUMIDA RIVER AND KANDA RIVER MEET, TO SANYA-BORI, IT WOULD COST 148 MON. EVEN COMPARED TO THE PRICE OF FUNA-MANJUU, THIS IS RATHER EXPENSIVE. IN EVERY AGE, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THERE IS A COST CORRESPONDING TO AMUSEMENT.

YOU CANNOT SPEAK OF EDO PERIOD SEX ENTERTAINMENT WITHOUT MENTIONING THE GOVERNMENT SANCTIONED RED-LIGHT DISTRICT OF YOSHIWARA. EVEN SO, MOVIES, PERIOD DRAMAS, AND COMICS ARE ULTIMATELY ENTERTAINMENT AND THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE YOSHIWARA DEPICTED IN THESE AND THE ACTUAL YOSHIWARA, SO THERE ARE SEVERAL POINTS I WANT TO BRING YOUR ATTENTION TO.
FOR EXAMPLE, IN GENERAL, PROSTITUTES DID NOT REMOVE THEIR CLOTHING IN THE MIDDLE OF SEX. MOST OF THE REMAININC SHUNGA DEPICT THEM HAVING SEX WITH THEIR KIMONO ON. THE ONLY PERSON A PROSTITUTE WOULD GET NAKED FOR WAS THE MAN SHE TRULY LOVED, CALLED HER MABU OR PARAMOUR. HOWEVER, MORE THAN ANYTHING, THIS ISN'T VERY FUN VISUALLY, SO IN TV SHOWS AND MANGA, THEY EXPOSE THIS SOFT SKIN.

ALSO, IN PERIOD PLAYS THERE ARE MANY DEPICTIONS OF MEN FONDLING PROSTITUTES, BUT IN REALITY, MEN WERE FUNDAMENTALLY PROHIBITED FROM TOUCHING THE BODY OF A PROSTITUTE. CUSTOMERS WERE REQUIRED TO JUST ENJOY THE SEX ACT INITIATED BY THE PROSTITUTE. IF YOU BROKE THE RULES AND TOUCHED HER, THE PROSTITUTE HAD THE RIGHT TO DECLINE YOU AS A CLIENT.
WOMEN WHO DON'T HAVE ANY SEXUAL REACTIONS, OR WHO LET MEN EXCLUSIVELY TOUCH THEM BUT DON'T DO ANYTHING THEMSELVES ARE OFTEN DERIDED POPULARLY AS "MAGURO ONNA" (TUNA WOMEN) BUT IN THE YOSHIWARA, IT WAS REQUIRED FOR A MAN TO BECOME THE MAGURO. THE PROSTITUTE WOULD USE ALL SORTS OF SKILLS ON HIM WITH BOTH HANDS AND MOUTH, SIMPLY LEADING THE MAN TOWARDS ORGASM.

MOST PROSTITUTES WERE BROUGHT TO THE YOSHIWARA AT THE AGE OF 7 OR 8, BECOMING A 'KABURO' APPRENTICE, AND AS THE COMPANIONS OF THE OLDER PROSTITUTES, WOULD LEARN THE MANNERS AND ARTS OF THE YOSHIWARA. THEY CALL THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CHILDREN'S HAIRSTYLE A KABURO BUT IN UKIYO-E AND PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE END OF THE EDO PERIOD, THESE GIRLS DID NOT HAVE THIS HAIRSTYLE, BUT INSTEAD WORE HAIRPINS IN A STYLE CALLED SHIMADA MAGE (OR KABURO SHIMADA). THE REASON FOR THESE YOUNG GIRLS TO COME TO YOSHIWARA WAS NOT ALWAYS THE IMPOVERISHED FAMILY OR THE LOAN REPAYMENT AS DEPICTED IN PERIOD PLAYS, BUT THERE WERE THOSE WHO MIGRATED TO WORK AS WELL, INCLUDING THOSE SENT TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MOUTHS TO FEED IN THEIR FAMILY. IT'S ALSO SAID THERE ARE THOSE GIRLS WHO CHOSE TO GO THEMSELVES IN ORDER TO EARN THEIR DOWRY. IT IS MUCH LIKE THERE ARE MANY REASONS THAT WOMEN NOWADAYS CHOSE TO WORK IN THE SEX INDUSTRY.

FINALLY, I REFERRED TO MANY WORKS WHEN WRITING THIS BOOK.
UJIIE MIKITO 'EDO NO SEIFUUZOKU'
UJIIE MIKITO 'FUGI MITTSUU – KINJIRARETA KOI NO EDO'
KASAMA YOSHIHIKO 'OOEDO FUKUGEN ZUKAN (SHOMIN HEN)'
KANZAKA JIROU 'GENROKU O-TATAMI BUCYOU NO NIKKI'
KAGA KISHIROU 'ASAHI BUNZAEMON OUMU ROUCHUUKI'
KITAJIMA HIROTOSHI 'OOEDO OMOSHIRO SHOUBAI'
SUGIURA HINAKO 'SUGIURA HINAKO NO EDO JUKU'
SHIBAYAMA HAJIME 'EDO DANSHOKU-KOU (WAKASHUU-HEN)'
TAKAYANAGI KANEYOSHI 'OOKU NO HIMECOTO'
NAKANO EIZOU 'YUUJO NO CHIE'
TANAKA YUUKO 'HARICATA TO EDO-ONNA'
HEISEI SAIKAKU 'EDO NO SEIFUUZOKU IROHA HIGI'
FUKUDA KAZUHIKO 'EDO SHUNGA NO SEIAIGAKU'
FUJIWARA KYOU 'JIDAIGEKI NO USO? HONTOU?'
KITAMURA SHAKEHIKO 'OOEDO YOSHIWARA MONOSHIRICHOU'
NAGAI YOSHIO 'EDO NO KAHANSHIN JIJOU'
I CAN'T REFER TO THEM ALL BUT I AM TRULY GRATEFUL. HEISEI 21 (2009), MAY, AUSPICIOUS DAY.

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